

# IN KITCHEN

By JOSEPH D. BIBB

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

**WE** have heard that any American boy can become President. We have read the Alger success stories and thrilled to the romances of American youths, who have started at the bottom of big business and struggled up to the top, but the chances for the American colored boy to scale the heights of white enterprise were revealed in amazing fashion

by the opulent Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pennsylvania, the Southern, the Seaboard, the Atlantic Coast Line, Norfolk and Western, have also had their Lamberts.

The story of the Lamberts was told by the Pennsylvania, in quarter-page ads appearing in most of our publications. The Lamberts, according to the ads, have given faithful service on the dining cars for 147 years, but not one of these loyal, faithful workers has ever been promoted out of dining car, and only one has been graduated from the kitchen.



Mr. Bibb

**THE LAMBERTS** started to work in the kitchen and there remained for 147 years. According to the "success story" as told by the Pennsy, the boys did make some progress, as they were advanced from dishwashers to cooks, but none of the Lamberts ever became dining car stewards, none was elevated to the commissary, none was promoted to be inspectors, none to the office, none to more dignified positions. The Lamberts started in the kitchen and remained in the kitchen, with one exception—he became a waiter. Perhaps we are in error, for we note that Joseph Lambert has been "furloughed" for Navy service. When Joe returns from the jaws of death he will be assured of his job—in the kitchen.

**SUCH A RECORD** explains and discloses the abominable system that harries and fetters colored Americans. It confounds the imagination to visualize a family of white Lamberts remaining so long circumscribed. A white Lambert, who was capable of working up from dishwasher to chef, would have been elevated by all odds after 147 years of faithful and efficient service. The white Lambert would have a future with the Pennsy, but a man of colored blood must veritably live and die as he began.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA** is now so short of dining car workers, that colored girls are carrying trays on swiftly moving trains. Maybe the big quarter-page ad that cost the railroad company thousands of dollars, was in truth nothing more than a glorified "Help Wanted" appeal. We are not scoffing at the desire of the railroad bosses to hire our boys, and we are not forgetting that the jobs benefit us.

The New York Central, Boston and Maine, the Santa Fe, Milwaukee, Southern Pacific, and in fact, all of the great railroad systems have made use of colored people in servile capacity, but only in rare instances has there been any advancement from the kitchen or from the white coat and apron.

This writer knows of no colored person, with exception of a few stewards, who have received any recognition in railroad-ing. The cards have been stacked and the dice loaded.

The epic of the intelligent looking, red blooded, loyal and capable Lamberts makes crystal clear just how insurmountable are the obstacles.

**THE ADVERTISEMENT** reads, "The company likes the calibre of the family; the family likes the character of the company." The company speaks for itself, but it cannot speak for the thousands and thousands of people like the Lamberts. They do not like the character of a company that will keep them in the kitchen for 147 years. They have had no alternative but to slave, sweat and struggle. Expressed resentment at the wages paid, the hours, the conditions of employment prove that the Lamberts have been caught in a groove from which there has been little chance of escape.

When the American romances are told, and when the "From Rags to Riches" and from "Office Boy to Bank President" yarns are dramatized, let it be known that to people of colored blood, such things appear monstrous and truth-defying.

**FOR THESE REASONS**, American colored people are now seeking to secure the passage of "Job Equality" bills where such rank discrimination and economic snobbery will become illegal. The story of the Lamberts is not a success story, but, to the contrary, a most heart-rending and poignant tragedy.

**Jim Crow In Jobs Is Crime**

Work 147 Years in Dining Car Kitchen Without Promotion

## Two States Act Against Discrimination

**INDIANAPOLIS.** — Following the lead of New York, the Indiana legislature passed an FEPC law here Tuesday, March 6, making this state the second in the nation to make it a crime to deny or limit employment because of race or color.

The Indiana house of representatives passed the FEPC measure during the last minutes of the current legislative session. The senate unanimously adopted the bill several weeks ago.

Indiana followed New York by only a day. The New York senate passed the Ives-Quinn (FEPC) bill Monday night, March 5. The lower house had passed the measure on February 28.

**Not a Strong Bill** The Indiana law is not as strong as the FEPC bill passed by New York. In reality, it is a compromise measure approved by Governor Ralph E. Gates.

The Indiana law entrusts to the Commissioner of Labor the hearing of charges of racial discrimination in employment and provides for investigations and study of facts and causes by the commissioner and an advisory group of nine who may, at their discretion, make recommendations to the biennial sessions of the legislature.

Senators R. L. Brockenbush and Charles Fleming introduced a bill similar to the New York bill imposing fines and imprisonment upon those found guilty of job discrimination. Opponents of the measure succeeded in removing the penalties. Organizations opposing the strong bill included the Indianapolis and the Indiana Chambers of Commerce and the Retail Merchants association.

**NEGRO SEGREGATION BY UNION CONDEMNED**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—Segregation of Negroes in a collective bargaining unit was condemned today in a report to the National Labor Relations Board by a trial

examiner who recommended that unless the practice was stopped within fifteen days the board should revoke its certification and order a new election.

In the case of employees of Larus & Brother Company of Richmond, Va., Examiner Frank Bloom reported that Local 219 of the American Federation of Labor Tobacco Workers Union "bargained only for the white employees in the certified unit" and that the Negro employees "in their segregated Local 219-B" were without protection of the law.

Stating that such "disparity in treatment" had been condemned by the United States Supreme Court in recent cases, he recommended inclusion of all employees in the certified unit and cancellation of the charter of Local 219-B within fifteen days or ordering a new election.

**EMPLOYMENT HOPE FADES** In Highland County, Florida, last week, before the proposed national labor draft bill and settled in the U. S. Senate, local officials undertook mass arrest of Negroes on charges of loafing. Twenty-five were hauled in one clip; among them several Negro women who were pulled out of their homes. These people, the officials said, were not helping the war effort.

As in climax at Fort Lauderdale, also in Florida, Negro schools were closed down and some 2,000 Negro school children ordered into the fields. The little white children repose in class.

Resistance among Negroes to any form of national labor draft comes because of instances like the two referred to. And a national bill would only mean that in the South where there has been a general effort to confine Negroes to menial jobs, no matter what their ability to do other kinds of work, all hope for desirable employment and increased income from the sale of labor will be lost.

There is serious doubt as to whether or not there is actual need of MORE manpower. R. J. Thomas president of the United Automobile Workers CIO, disputes federal contention that there are only 700,000 workers available. Federal sources "must be thinking of white men," he said. "My estimate is that there are 5,000,000 workers—persons they overlook—the women and Negroes able and wanting to work in war plants and other essential industries."

The Lighthouse and Informer

**Washington 'Passers' Lose Jobs When Racial Identity Is Known**

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—The lot new assignment of the light skinned Negro working in Washington is no bed of roses. Citing the incident to the personnel director, who waxed angry, if he admits his racial identity, the girl was restored to her former position. One of several good stories, truth-post, and probable, which is making the rounds concerns a girl who had landed a good government post a government job with a group of but robbed herself of the position by writing "colored" in the space Lunching with her co-workers, marked race. Officials in this case the whites began to characterize the girl off to Chicago. Negroes as lazy, dirty and uncouth. where they said her identity would The "white" colored girl, resenting make no difference. the description, told her fellow employees where to land, and advised that she, herself, was a Negro. Leaving the group, the young woman found that before she had reached her office she had been transferred to another job in the basement of the building. But being of a spunky nature, and still riled up over her restaurant experience, the government worker

The New Labor Crisis, III.

**NLRB Report Slaps**

**AFL Jim Crowism**

**Recommends Abolition Of Segregated Local for Tobacco Workers**

By WILBUR H. BALDINGER  
PM's Bureau  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL, was called on today by a trial examiner for the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) to eliminate a Grade B, Jim Crow local and "practice that democracy which is the most precious asset of this Nation."

Set Up by Negro

2-27-45



The Jim Crow unit, he said, was established at the urging of George Benjamin, international vice president of the tobacco workers and himself a Negro, after the AFL won a collective bargaining election at the plant in a contest with the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers, CIO, in March, 1944.

As a result, Bloom said, Negro workers in the plant not only were denied their democratic trade union rights under NLRB procedures, but actually were not covered by terms of an AFL contract subsequently signed with local 219 of the union, since that was the only bargaining agent designated in the agreement with Larus. 2-27-45

The NLRB trial examiner urged that the AFL union be given until Mar. 10 to mend its ways at the Richmond plant or face another bargaining election contest with the CIO union, which had previously represented the Negro workers involved and which challenged propriety of the AFL Jim Crow unit.

### Undemocratic

"In essence," said the report to the NLRB, "the situation . . . resulted from the insistence of high-ranking officials of the International that they make decisions as to the creation of unions, a function which properly belongs to employees."

"An international vice president directed and diverted the Negroes into a segregated local. The facts flatly contradict the claim of the AFL that 219-B was set up in democratic fashion. 2-27-45

"The Board . . . may not countenance infractions of constitutional rights or lightly ignore the practice of racial discrimination by a labor organization. . . . We are faced here with a type of division which under the policy of the law . . . is improper."

Prior to the 1944 NLRB election won 315 to 179 by the AFL, the CIO union was contract representative for Negro employees in production and maintenance departments of the Larus plant, which produces Chelsea cigarettes and Edgeworth pipe tobacco. The AFL represented white employees in the department.

### 200 Jim Crowed

About 200 Negroes subsequently were placed in the Jim Crow 219-B local of the AFL union under the guidance of Benjamin, who told the Negro workers that they should "get together" in the segregated local "and come in under the contract"—although the contract, as it turned out, made no mention of the Grade B local or its members. Pointing out that "the collective strength of the employees has been

to a large extent dissipated" by the Jim Crow practice of the AFL union, Bloom said: 2-27-45

"No guarantee exists that the two organizations would act in concert on any matter confronting them. A strike, normally the strongest weapon at the command of a union, might become largely ineffective if it were applicable only to a portion of the workers in the unit."

"The white as well as the Negro workers become victims of the discrimination through the loss of the strength which unity of action alone can afford."

## Urban League Rips Anti-Negro Policy Of Nation's Employers

Chicago Defender 3-3-45

NEW YORK. — The National Urban League this week ripped the anti-Negro policies of America's industrial leaders.

A sharp answer to Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, whose recent article on post-war job prospects for Negroes appeared in an exclusive Chicago Defender series, came from Guichard Parris, the league's field secretary. 3-3-45

"American industrial management should not be too proud of the way it has used Negro manpower in its war production program," said Parris.

The league's reply came to Mosher's contention that "Top industrial management has taken a more tolerant and constructive attitude toward the employment of the Negro than almost any other segment of society."

Mosher, head of the most influential organization of employers in the nation, was the sixth industrialist to analyze the position of Negroes in American industry in the Defender's series which is attracting nation-wide interest.

### Hits Spotty Record

"Industry's record shows spotty, unrealistic, even shameful treatment," stated Parris. "Skills have been wasted, war production hindered, and prejudice allowed to build up false worker morale. The Negro worker cannot be blamed, for at no time has he been in position to control his participation in activities of his country, in war or in peace. In the matter of employment in industry, he has fought every inch of the war way for the grudging recognition he is finally achieving from some of the nation's employers." 3-3-45

Parris pointed out that even as late as seven months after Pearl Harbor more than half of the war industries seeking workers openly admitted to the Government that they would not employ Negroes in any capacity.

"In general," said Parris, "those

who said they would employ them indicated they would do so only in certain, well-defined occupations—which usually meant unskilled jobs. Statistics from Selective Service reveal that although Negroes represented over ten per cent of the nation's manpower registered in the draft at the end of 1941, they comprised much less than one per cent of the men deferred from military service because they held essential war jobs. They represented about one and one-half per cent of the workers holding jobs essential to the nation's civilian economy."

### Cites Progress

Citing the slow change during the progress of the war, Parris said: 3-3-45

"In a recent National Urban League survey of 250 essential and strategically located manufacturing plants, it was found that Negroes were holding such jobs as personnel managers, employment counselors, aeronautical engineers, job analysts, tool designers, methods engineers, medical directors, and industrial nurses. The survey revealed, in addition, the extraordinary fact that Negro men and women were employed in an appreciable number of professional, technical, supervisory, and clerical occupations in a little less than 100 of the 250 plants reporting. In two of these plants, Negroes held management positions. Industry is slowly but surely recognizing, from the shop and factory experiences with Negro workers, that it is good business to use skills — Negro or white. An ever increasing number of labor leaders, and rank and file union members, are constantly demanding job equality based on merit and not skin color."

"With management coming to the realization that full use of the country's productive resources

both human and physical—and employment, at useful work and a fair wage for all Americans able and willing to work, are essentials to the well-being of our nation

and the protection of our democratic activities, the Negro has a good chance at a secure position in American economy."

"Management must choose. The employer must recognize the inherent right of every man to equality of opportunity if we are to have a democratic society. The Negro's white fellow worker must no longer deny him this right," concluded Parris. 3-3-45

### CIO Urges Fight On Jim Crow Locals

St. Louis Post-Dispatch 4-27-45 Mo.

PHILADELPHIA. — (ANP) — Condemnation of jim crow practices was voiced by the CIO executive board in a resolution urging the NLRB to take strong action against the AFL Tobacco Workers International's violation of democratic principles. Announcement of the adoption of this resolution at the CIO board meeting in Washington last week was made today by President Donald Henderson of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers union.

The CIO board, in this resolution, upheld the NLRB trial examiner's report which recommended that the AFL tobacco union in Richmond, Va., disband a jim crow local of the Larus and Brothers tobacco plant or have its certification removed. The case had been brought to the attention of the NLRB by FTA on behalf of the Negro workers in the plant.

On Feb. 27, the NLRB trial examiner blasted the AFL for leaving the Negro workers out in the cold in its agreement with the company. If accepted by the board, the trial examiner's recommendations will have a sweeping effect in the south, where the AFL has notoriously discriminated against its Negro membership.

The NLRB's action in this case,

said the CIO resolution, "will represent a vital test of the Wagner act at a time when this country is engaged in a bitter struggle for democracy and against racial discrimination."

## Says Negroes Would Meet Shortages

Pittsburgh Courier 1-27-45 Penn.

### Senate Group Probes Use of Manpower in Critical Industries

WASHINGTON—An investigation was under way this week by the Senate War Investigating Committee to determine whether or not discrimination against Negroes and women, by management, has been a check "to getting enough workers to keep production at top levels."

In a direct protest against President Roosevelt's request for a National Service Act, R. J. Thomas, head of UAW-CIO, said in a radio talk Saturday that one of the CIO's main reasons for opposing the proposed law is that "sufficient use is not being made of Negroes and women . . . even in the most critical industries."

### OXLEY CALLS FOR FULL USE OF NEGROES

In St. Louis, Lawrence A. Oxley, senior technician for Minority Groups' Service, Bureau of Placement, War Manpower Commission, declared that full utilization of available Negro labor in war production plants would materially reduce current manpower shortages.

"In St. Louis and in other sections of the country," Mr. Oxley said, "we found that we did not have the full utilization of available Negro labor, which could have met some of the great demands for manpower."

He added that "segregation of Negro workers in plants does not solve the problem of manpower, because segregated groups can only be expanded by additional members to the capacity of the room or building in which they work."

### PIN BLAME ON MANAGEMENT 1-27-45

The Senate War Investigating Committee, headed by Senator Mead (D., N.Y.), checked manpower conditions in Norfolk shipyards and discovered that workers are engaged in making articles which had nothing whatever to do with building ships. With Senator Mead were Senators Kilgore (D., W.Va.) and Ball (R., Minn.). Much of the blame for what they found, it is believed, will be fastened, not on workers, but on management of the shipyard.

The results of this first trip, and others to be made soon, may have a strong bearing on what Congress does about President

Roosevelt's request for a National Service Act and the Bailey-May Bill, which would impose tight control on 4-F draft registrants and others between 18 and 45. Many members of Congress, despite pleas of high military officials, have been convinced that no new legislation would be needed if maximum use were made of manpower under powers already granted.



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Illinois

# 3 Negro Women Win Campbell Jobs Back

*Daily Worker*  
By Federated Press

CHICAGO, July 4.—The Campbell Soup Co. backed down on its arbitrary dismissal of three Negro women after 300 Negro and white employees staged a brief protest demonstration in front of the plant after working hours. **7-5-45**

The workers, all members of Local 194, Food, Tobacco & Agricultural Workers (CIO), paraded up and down with placards reading: **Germany Surrendered, But Not Campbell Soup; Local 194 Upholds The No-Strike Pledge. We Refuse to Strike; End The Soup; We Are Humans, Not Cans Of Soup; We Demand Decent Treatment.**

The Negroes were dismissed on charges of insubordination when they refused to accept transfers before they conferred with the union steward. Their case climaxed a series of grievances resulting from the company's attitude toward Negro workers, who comprise 70 percent of the plant's 3,000 employees.

## Illinois FEPC

### Killed by Silence

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (ANP) — The state FEPC bill was killed here last week in the House of Representatives when the majority refused to vote on the roll call. *People's Voice*

Eighty-one representatives, a majority of the House membership, declined to go on record of favoring the bill or opposing it by the simple stratagem of remaining silent on the roll call. Only 40 votes were cast in support of a fair employment practice commission in Illinois, 37 short of the required majority. Twenty-eight voted against FEPC. **7-7-45**



45c-1945

# Todd-Johnson Hiring Practices Are Blasted

By John E. Rousseau, Jr.

(F-X-C-L-U-S-I-V-E)

NEW ORLEANS—Discriminatory hiring practices at the Todd-Johnson Shipyards, Inc. have remained practically the same for the past five years so far as Negro workers are connected, activities of AFL and CIO unions notwithstanding, and despite the urgent need for workers the employment of Negroes at that shipyard was received which led to a report received from unimpeachable sources by Informer-Sentinel representatives stated this week.

## The Facts

"Refusal to Upgrade: Almost All Negroes in Labor Department.

"In conference on December 15, 1943, September 14, 1944, and May 1945, John Pharr, secretary-treasurer of the company, stated that with few minor exceptions, all Negroes were in the labor department. He stated that there never had been any upgrading from the labor department or any other department of the yard.

"The company explained that Negro workers could advance within the labor department to various classifications which paid more than the basic labor rate of 63 cents an hour. One job (bricklaying) paid as high as \$1.20 per hour while the worker was engaged on it, but this job was classified as laborer with a base rate of 63 cents. Except for this one job, no Negroes in the labor department have any possibility of advancing to a job rated as skilled by the company.

"During the period in which these complaints have been on file and in the process of discussion, the company has been in almost continuous need of workers in various crafts. For example, on April 17, 1945, the company was seeking each of the following categories of workers: Electricians and helpers, boilermakers and helpers, and machinists and helpers.

"Negroes employed in the labor department have sought advancement to these or similar jobs but have been refused.

"(A) Henry Anderson, for example, while employed at Todd-Johnson, took training as welder at Xavier university. About February 1, 1945, he applied to a Mr. Touchard, assistant to Mr. Pharr, and asked, 'Are you going to have colored welders at all?'

"To this question, he stated, Touchard replied, 'No.'

"Mr. Touchard offered Anderson his release on completion of his welding training.

"(B) Scott Richardson, another employee of Todd-Johnson, stated that he had been painting there 'off

## Louisiana

and on since 1932 and steady since 1940. He claimed that he and other Negroes did the so-called 'finished' painting prior to 1937. He stated that he applied for a job as a full scale painter but was refused on account of his race.

## Refusal To Train

"An alleged discriminatory hiring order on December 11, 1943, for machine shop trainees was investigated and, although the company denied issuing the order, it admitted that no Negroes were allowed to enter training classes. The machine shop trainees were limited to whites.

"In conference with the company, it was stated that the training program was designed to enable the employees of the company to advance instead of hiring from the open market for the better jobs. However, no Negro employee of the company has ever been offered training, according to company officials.

## Refusal To Hire

"All Negroes hired as laborers: Negro complainants have alleged that all Negroes are hired in as laborers at 63 cents and that the company has refused employment at higher classification to any Negro regardless of his experience. The company confirms that with minor exceptions no Negroes have been employed above the laborers' rate.

"Qualified Negro applicants refused: (A.) Louis Monroe, formerly employed at Mobile, Alabama, as a boilermaker, sought work at his forcraft in 1944 at Todd-Johnson but was refused because of his race.

"(B) Dorothy Mae Hamilton of New Orleans, completed a course at Xavier university in June, 1944, and worked at Higgins shipyard until the lay-off January 25, 1945. She then applied for work as a welder at Todd-Johnson in February 1945. She quoted Jerry Russell, secretary to Mr. Pharr, as saying that they were employing no colored skilled workers at all.

## Failure To Recruit

"On many occasions the company has resorted to intensive recruiting to secure needed workers. No effort has been made to recruit skilled Negroes although their availability is common knowledge in New Orleans.

## Less Negro Workers

"From available figures, originating from the Todd-Johnson company, the number of Negroes employed in recent years has shown the following pattern:

Date	Total	Empl'y'm't	Negroes
May, 1942	2400		1201
Sept., 1942	2512		402
Jan., 1943	3300		633
May, 1943	3454		641
Sept., 1943	3880		707
Jan., 1944	4280		660
Sept., 1944	4275		512
Jan., 1945	4225		462
Mar., 1945	4331		386

"This shows a continuing reduction of Negro employment. Although the company has not supplied confirming figures on this decline, they have stated that they were unable to hire sufficient laborers and have contracted some of this work.

## Discriminatory Wages

"Differential in hiring-in wage: Negro complainants have alleged that all Negroes are hired at the labor rate, now 63 cents, while all white workers even though inexperienced, are now hired at 68 cents, 75 cents, 86 cents, or \$1.20. The company has stated that the only persons hired at 63 cents are Negroes while the lowest rate for a white worker is the 'unskilled helper' rate of 68 cents. The bulk of white workers are hired as helpers at 75 cents. The company contends that there is a difference in job content between the 'unskilled helper' and the laborer. Negro complainants contend that Negro laborers have duties which equal those of helpers and that many of the helpers have never been trained at all when hired at 75 cents—12 cents more than experienced Negroes are paid.

"Painters paid lower rate for equivalent work: Negroes who paint the hulls, double-bottom, engine rooms, and decks, contend that they do substantially the same work as white painters. They state that until 1937 or 1938, Negroes did all the painting including that now reserved for white workers. They state that they now use all the equipment and machinery used by white painters and on occasions work side by side to get work out. They contend that the 'rough painters' scale to which they are assigned is merely a 'Negro painters scale.' They complete the work on the hulls, including camouflage if needed.

"An investigation revealed that the 'rough painters' classification is peculiar to the Gulf Coast and to the repair industry here. . . and the rate exists only where Negroes are employed as painters, and no white painters have been found who are so classified. This same work in new construction yards is performed by \$1.20 painters, both Negro and white.

## Biased Classification

"Negro toolroom attendants classified as laborers: These attendants complained that they were improperly classified and were entitled to attendants ratings. We have been informed that this matter has been settled through a union grievance.

Negro laborers claim helper status: Forty-three Negro laborers signed a complaint contending that their work consisted of helping painters, boiler sealing, helping boilermakers place iron, tank cleaning, and rigging scaffolds for boilermakers. They contend that if they were white they would be classified at least as helpers.

"Negro seniority limited to labor department: Because of the classification as laborer, no matter what job is performed, Negroes have no seniority which would enable them to advance. The labor department, more accurately, could be called the Negro department.

## Affects War Effort

"The discriminatory practices presented above have had a serious effect upon the productivity of Todd-Johnson. A Negro union steward made this statement:

"I have had colored employees newly-hired by the company to ask me how long I had been employed. They asked if I am still a laborer. They tell me that they want to get out of the company if there is no chance of advancement.

"It is my opinion, based on conversation with many workers in the labor department at Todd-Johnson, that absenteeism and turnover among colored workers is principally due to the fact that they have no opportunity for upgrading, advancement, wages, according to the work they do.

"Originally the company took the position that the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO Local 29, had prevented the company from fully utilizing Negro workers. The Union stated by letter of January 27, 1944, signed by Philip A. Comeaux, 'The only people who can be held responsible for such (discrimination) are the Todd-Johnson officials.'

"In statements from members of the negotiating committee, John Pharr has been quoted as 'bitterly opposed to' upgrading of Negroes. The union sought such upgrading in bargaining with the company."

In conclusion, the report stated that a letter of April 17, 1945 presented the issues to the company and the same were discussed in a conference on May 7, 1945. At that time a request was made that the company prepare a proposal for the elimination of the discrimination revealed in the investigation, the report stated, but Sam Benbow, speaking for the company, stated that they had no proposals to make and would not remedy the conditions described until ordered to do so by the procurement agencies.

## Request For Action

Based on the facts stated, the request was made of the War Shipping Administration; U. S. Army New Orleans Port of Embarkation and Eighth Naval District Headquarters, that Todd-Johnson company, as contractor, be informed of its obligations and of the non-discriminatory clause in the contracts. CIO and AFL union officials in New Orleans were in possession of this information since May, it was learned from a reliable source.

Last seen, John Gutter, the boilermaker, was leaving New Orleans last Sunday in the quest of democratic employment.

The walkout was termed "a spontaneous action on the part of workers, members of the IUMSWA, CIO." The CIO won over the AFL at Todd-Johnson in an election on June 22, 1945 by 1925 votes to 191.

The recent strike of white workers which began when John Gutter, a Negro, was hired as boiler-maker on July 17, ended three days later when it was found out that he had been terminated. At this time, a system anything he is told, one union official said.

Another allegation made recently by union members and verified by Negro workers is that a "shape-up system" is being used which is tantamount to an employee being hired each morning and fired each night. All laborers, it is alleged, must report to a common labor pool each morning and wait until they are hired for



**FEPC ROUNDUP**

# Senate Vote Kills Mass. FEPC Hope

*Chicago Defender*

BOSTON—(ANP)—The last hope died this week that Massachusetts would enact anti-discrimination legislation this year when the senate refused to overrule the action of the lower house and killed the anti-bias bill by a 17 to 17 stalemate vote.

7-14-45  
Packed with politics and regarded as the most controversial legislation ever to be considered in this state, the bill would have imposed penalties in Massachusetts for refusal to hire persons or to deny them membership in labor organizations on the basis of race, color, religion or nationality. New York is the only state to have enacted the legislation in the United States.

Nearly half the senate membership took the floor to debate for or against the bill, although the discussion finally narrowed down to a three-cornered match in which the veteran Sen. Donald W. Nicholson of Wareham, Republican floor leader, led a successful fight against Sens. Edward M. Rowe of Cambridge, Republican, and Charles I. Taylor, Boston Democrat, who teamed up in favor.

After the 17 to 17 vote killing the bill, the senate voted 16 to 16 to kill the resolve calling for further study of the question.

## LIBERAL BILLS SUFFER IN OHIO LEGISLATURE

COLUMBUS—(ANP)—The Ohio legislature ended its 96th session this past week after 100 days of deliberation. Most liberal measures were defeated.

The bill to create a state FEPC was bottled up by committees in both the senate and the house and never came to the floor for a vote. An attempt to reinstall federal housing projects was killed. An effort to increase old-age pensions was defeated. Unemployment compensation made some slight advance. Unemployed workers who meet other qualifications now may receive \$21 for 22 weeks.

## VA. LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD YANKS FEP CLAUSE

RICHMOND, Va.—(ANP)—The state ABC board, which handles the distribution of liquor in Virginia, moved quickly this week to overlook or get withdrawn a section of its real estate leases which contains an FEPC clause. The state board maintains a building and

leases, proposed by federal agencies which were tenants, contained what to the board was the fatal provision which would bind the ABC board not to discriminate in the furnishing of services to the lessees, and other tenants of the building because of race, sex, color, creed or national origin. The board refused to accept the leases with that clause in it and the federal agencies are now querying Washington to see whether the FEPC clause may be eliminated.



# Women Help Made to Dine in Toilet at Bethesda Hospital

*Washington Tribune 2-24-45*

The National Navy Medical Center located in Bethesda, Md., has outdone itself in the horror of horrors when it forced the maids, women elevator operators, and janitors to eat their lunch in a toilet, according to a report made by several employees of the Center. These women state that a long table was put in the lavatory, and they were told this is where they have to eat their lunch from now on.

So close is the table to the torpedoing of the ship on commodes that when the woman which he served, went to buy en want to take care of their ice cream at a commissary on needs they must say, "excuse me one of the upper floors, to be ladies, are you through eating?" told he could not be served there I want to use the toilet."

The women say that they formerly ate in a hall, "which was bad enough," and all of a sudden the table was moved and placed in this unhealthy atmosphere. One of these women have been employed at the Hospital for more than 20 years.

## No Place For Men

No place has been prepared for the men janitors and laborers to eat at all. They must eat wherever they can find space.

Who is responsible for such inhuman treatment at a Government Hospital? the employees were asked. The group, works directly under a Captain Dunkin, whom they say issued the toilet eating order. His superior is reported to be a Captain John Harbor. There are about 10 women who eat their daily lunch in a lavatory.

These, however, are not the only horrors to which these "workers for democracy" must be subjected. Their old enemy, segregation and discrimination stalks them at every turn at Bethesda.

## Chair Episode

One woman related how she went to one of the commissaries to purchase some coffee she observed that a chair had been placed at one end of the counter and all colored were eating on one side of the chair and the whites on the other.

Another instance was related whereby a colored patient who had lost a leg as the result of

the torpedoing of the ship on which he served, went to buy ice cream at a commissary on one of the upper floors, to be told he could not be served there "this is for white only." (The torpedo which took his leg, however, wasn't labeled "for Negroes only.")

Still another woman told how she attempted to buy food at one of the eateries and it was placed in the window over which dirty dishes must come.

It is to be remembered that just recently four of the first contingent of 34 Negro Waves were assigned to Bethesda to complete training for the hospital corps. The civilian workers were asked if these Waves were subjected to discrimination too. The reply was that so far as they knew the Waves were not. They take their meals in the regular mess hall along with other Navy enlisted personnel.

"Only those of us who are maids, elevator operators, and janitors are subjected to eating in the toilet and other discriminatory practices. We are treated like so many cattle," was the observation.

telephone operators was stalled by a tie vote Friday between colored and white members of the commission.

The vote was actually taken on an amendment on the following points in the report of the commission's subcommittee on law enforcement after conferences with C. and P. Telephone Company officials:

That it would be unwise and contrary to the best interests of the race to introduce colored operators into white exchanges; that it would be foolhardy to have the company establish a separate exchange for colored operators because of the pending conversion to complete use of dial phones.

## Requested by FEPC

The subcommittee, including Judge Morris P. Soper, chairman; Judge Joseph C. Mattingly, Walter T. Dixon and Frank B. Ober, attorney, was assigned to investigate the possibility of having colored telephone operators employed at the request of the FEPC. Its report recommending that the issue not be forced now was submitted at the monthly meeting of the commission after two meetings on June 15 and 22, the first with August B. Haneke, vice-president of the telephone company; and the other with Cecil Scott, Urban League industrial secretary.

Because of his judicial duties, Judge Soper was unable to attend either of the hearings.

When the report was presented

## Maryland

segregated setup.

When the vote was taken on this amendment, the four colored members, Dr. Camper, Mrs. Lucille Fitzgerald, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson and Mr. Dixon voted for it.

The four white members, Glen D. Brown, Dr. Robert H. Riley, Judge Mattingly and Dr. William Nevins, voted against it. It was then suggested that the commission chairman, Joseph P. Healy, be given time to take a stand and break the tie vote.

## Cites Company's Record

In its recommendation that the issue not be forced now for the employment of colored operators, the subcommittee pointed out that the company has within the past few years improved both the number and status of its colored employees.

This was based on the report that three years ago the company had among its 3,000 workers only 94 colored employees in domestic positions, but that now it hires approximately 225 colored employees in a wide variety of skilled jobs although none are operators. FEPC.

# Governor's Commission Split Over Telephone Company Job Question

*Afro-American*

Vote on Non-Discriminatory Employment Policies Finds Members Tied—Colored For, Whites Against Integration

BALTIMORE — The question to the commission members, Dr. J. E. T. Camper took exception to its recommendation by making an amendment that it would be wise to integrate colored operators in the present exchanges, while it would be unwise to encourage a



# Alleged Discrimination by Union Faces U.S. Court

*Detroit Free Press*  
*Michigan*

Racial discrimination by Local 299 of the Teamsters Union (AFL), which bars Negroes from driving trucks on "over-the-road" hauls, may soon be taken to Federal Court. 1-7-45

It may be the topic of a national hearing by the Fair Employment Practices Committee, it was revealed Saturday.

The case which is said to be on its way to the Federal Court is that of Festus Hairston, of 8774 Cameron, who owns his own truck but experiences difficulty, because of the union's ban, in working on over-the-road hauls.

\* \* \*

THE ENTIRE subject of racial discrimination in Local 299 was cited for a FEPC hearing as long ago as last May. Witnesses were notified to be present. James Hoffa, secretary-treasurer of the local, was among those who received the notices.

At about that time, however, the committee was reorganized and all hearings were cancelled.

Hoffa has admitted that his local does not permit Negroes to be members as drivers, except for companies that are composed entirely of Negroes. He points out, however, that Negroes may work as dock employees and loaders.

1-7-45

HE EXPLAINED that one of the chief reason why his members voted to ban Negro drivers was the question of "social equality."

"Drivers have to sleep together at the terminals, usually in company-owned bunk houses," said Hoffa. "It would create a problem if Negroes were put on by these companies as drivers."

Eating along the route also was cited as a reason for the ban.

\* \* \*

THE CASE OF Hairston was to have been the subject of the FEPC probe last May. An experienced truck driver, he bought his own truck and got some business on over-the-road hauls. He managed to get a membership card in Local 299 through a friend.

Soon, however, the union heard he was a Negro and called him to a union meeting. 1-7-45

Hairston told Edward M. Swann, examiner in charge of the Detroit office of the FEPC, that most of the members spoke in favor of his admission to the union.

\* \* \*

HE SAID HE WAS then escorted out of the meeting, and waited while union officials addressed the members. When he was called back to the meeting, he said Hoffa

told him the members had voted to exclude him. 1-7-45

To show the extent of Local 299's ban, Swann cited a case in which the union organized the members of a cartage company that already employed a Negro as a driver. He said that when the union organized these members, the Negro was "forced to quit his job."

**Biased Employee  
Discharged By  
CIO War Group**  
7-28-45

Worker Campaigned On  
Platform That 'He Was  
Opposed To Negroes'

WASHINGTON, (ANP) — A white employee of the CIO War Relief committee in Detroit was fired in April because in his efforts to get elected councilman in Lincoln Park, a suburb of Detroit, he campaigned upon the platform that he was opposed to Negroes living in that community.

He is Paul W. Bensnyder, formerly assistant to Alex Barbour, the area director, whose political advertisement appeared in the March 29 issue of the "Lincoln Parker," community publication. According to the advertisement, Bensnyder enjoyed the support of the Wayne County Political Action Committee.

George L. P. Weaver, secretary CIO Committee on Discrimination was unwilling to discuss the case but admitted that the offensive advertisement had been brought to his attention and that he had passed it on to the National CIO War Relief committee. 7-28-45

After successive attempts to have Bensnyder explain himself, it is understood that his removal from the job came about when he failed to avail himself of the opportunity.



# FEPC Directs U. S. Cartridge To New York, N.Y. Stop Employment Discrimination And End Quota System Of Hiring 1-6-45

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has directed the United States Cartridge Company, St. Louis, Mo., to accept available and needed workers in its munitions plants without discrimination because of race or color, Malcolm Ross, chairman of the committee, announced Friday.

The committee also directed the company not to lay off or discharge workers through a dual seniority system that is not applicable equally to Negro and white workers, and not to maintain any racial quota system of employment which, the committee finds, results in refusal to hire in violation of Executive Order 9346.

The decision of the committee follows public hearings held on complaints against the Cartridge Company last summer in St. Louis. Of the seven specific complainants who alleged discrimination, the committee, on the findings, directed the company to hire one Negro worker who had been refused employment, and to reinstate two other Negro workers. The committee dismissed four complaints that they found were not supported by the evidence.

The United States Cartridge Company's plant is composed of eight buildings or units in the St. Louis area, seven of them having only white production workers and one having only Negro workers. A company official testified at the St. Louis hearings that, in setting up these units for the production of ammunition under War and Navy contracts, the company had attempted to follow the St. Louis population ratio by employing 90 per cent white workers and 10 per cent Negro.

Examination of cutbacks occurring last spring showed that the use of different seniority systems, one for Negro and one for white workers, resulted on one occasion in more Negroes being discharged than would have been under the single seniority system provided in the labor-management contract with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO.

ST. LOUIS.—Charges against the Bussmann Manufacturing company, 2536 W. University street, for discrimination against union members in hiring policies were filed last week with the National Labor Relations Board by the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, District 8.

Robert B. Logsdon, international representative of the union, said they were based on the company's

## Missouri

refusal to give jobs by virtue of seniority to some of 85 Negro women laid off Friday by the E. P. Gund Co., which he maintained, is a subsidiary of the Bussmann firm. Logsdon said the company last year justified its unwillingness to hire Negro women at Bussmann's to the Fair Employment Practices Committee by citing its employment at Gund's.

The union contends that the discharged women must be given jobs at the Bussmann plant on a seniority basis. Its officers have held that the Gund company shut down after the union sought to renegotiate wages.

### Cutback Problem

It was admitted by a company witness that it would have been easier to solve the cutback problems had the Negro workers been placed separately in one of the units.

William Sentner, general vice president of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO, testified that it was impossible to apply equitably the principle of seniority when there are segregated units within a plant.

In its decision the committee found that a racial quota system is equally as mischievous when used to select employees for layoffs as when applied with regard to their hire. Executive Order 9346 does not provide that Negroes or other minority groups shall be hired or retained in employment in accordance with population ratios. The order, on the contrary, forbids the use of extraneous considerations of race, creed, color, or national origin in hiring or in laying off employees. It is no defense to argue, as the respondent has done, that its quota system on certain occasions operated to the advantage of Negro employees and to the prejudice of white workers. The executive order forbids discrimination against white as well as against colored employees."

### CIO Files Bias Charges Against St. Louis Co.

ST. LOUIS.—Charges against the Bussmann Manufacturing company, 2536 W. University street, for discrimination against union members in hiring policies were filed last week with the National Labor Relations Board by the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, District 8.

Robert B. Logsdon, international representative of the union, said they were based on the company's



NEWARK, N.J.—CIO United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers and the regional directors of the New Jersey Fair Employment Practices Committee signed an agreement this week pledging cooperation in the solving of discrimination problems announced James McLeish, general vice president of the union. The agreement applies to plants in which labor locals or organizing committees exist, and calls for union members to act as agents for the FEPC.

## Opinions Differ Sharply Over Color Line in Jobs

9-23-45  
By George Gallup

Director American Institute of  
of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., Sept. 22—Few issues have produced such sharp differences of opinion in the United States as the issue involved in antidiscrimination, or FEPC type, laws proposed in Washington and in various States of the Union.

The idea of requiring employers to hire a person qualified for a job regardless of his race or color was recently written into law in New York and New Jersey, but a current survey shows that the idea has not yet achieved widespread acceptance throughout the country as a whole.

The South is not the only section which shows resistance to such legislation. In questioning Americans from coast to coast, the institute finds that large numbers of people in the Middle West, and in the Far West, are also reluctant to see legislative action to abolish racial and color lines in employment.

Farmers the country over are especially unreceptive to the idea. The farm population, even outside the South, is more opposed to FEPC laws concerning employers than any other large group.

Manual workers, on the other hand, show preponderant sentiment in favor of the FEPC program. A majority of these say they would like to see employers required to hire without regard to race or color.

Manual workers also express greater willingness than white-

collar workers, executives, professional men or farmers to work alongside persons of any race or color.

Young people—those under 30—also show more inclination to accept antidiscrimination laws than older people—a fact which suggests that such proposals will win increasing support as time goes on.

Of all geographical sections, the Northeast shows the most receptiveness at present; a majority of people there expressing themselves in favor of FEPC-type legislation.

The institute's survey was conducted for the sole purpose of finding the facts as to national opinion on the matter—facts which may serve as a guide to those interested in promoting better race relations in the United States.

A true cross-section of the population was polled, and the techniques used were those which have enabled poll-takers to forecast the outcome of five national elections in five different countries within the past year (Britain, Sweden, Canada, Australia and the United States) with an accuracy of within 2 percentage points in each country.

While proponents of legislation favoring racial equalization hiring may find today's survey discouraging, they will see in the poll figures a definition of the areas in which educational work is needed if they are to win general public support for their program.

The question used was this: "Do you favor or oppose a law in your State which would require employers to hire a person

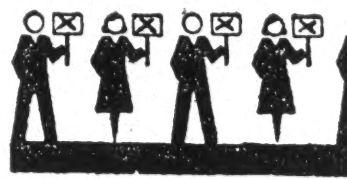
New Jersey  
**DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE A LAW  
IN THIS STATE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE  
EMPLOYERS TO HIRE A PERSON  
IF HE IS QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB  
REGARDLESS OF HIS RACE OR COLOR?**

**FAVOR**



43%

**OPPOSE**

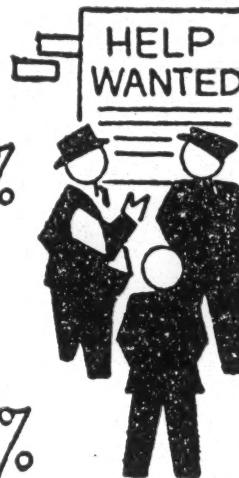


44%

**NO OPINION**



13%



**EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 10%**

if he is qualified for the job regardless of his race or color?"

The vote:

	Favor	Oppose	No Op.
National	43%	44%	13%

By Sections

New England

& Middle

Atlantic	58%	31%	11%
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East & West

Central	41	43	16
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South	30	60	10
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Far West	41	46	13
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By Age

21-29	55	34	11
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30-49	42	45	13
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50 and over	38	48	14
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By Occupation

Business &			
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Profes-			
---------	--	--	--

sional	43	48	9
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White Collar	41	51	8
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Farmers	25	57	18
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Manual			
--------	--	--	--

Workers	52	35	13
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As a further test of sentiment, a second question dealing with the willingness of employees to work alongside persons of any race or color was asked, as follows:

"Would you favor or oppose a State law which would require employees to work alongside persons of any race or color?"

The national vote:

Favor ----- 34%

Oppose ----- 56

No Opinion ----- 10



# JIM CROW JOB AX FACES NEW YORK NEGRO AFTER THE WAR

also have a strong position in some chemical plants just across the river in Jersey.

Thousands of Negroes employed in the metropolitan area, especially those in the shipbuilding and aircraft industries, face unemployment as the result of postwar industrial discrimination, according to Dr. Herbert R. Northrup, senior hearing officer of the Regional War Labor Board here, and author of "Organized Labor and the Negro,"

The problem of Negro employment in the metropolitan area, Northrup says, is an integral part of the whole problem of achieving full employment.

"Without full employment," Northrup says, "the Negro just doesn't have a chance."

Nevertheless, there are certain local factors which do have a bearing on the Negro's chances for a good job here in the postwar period.

The unfavorable factors outweigh the favorable ones. Northrup sums them up as follows:

Negroes succeeded in getting into war industries here only after the war effort was well under way — in 1942 and 1943 — at a time when manpower was becoming short. Therefore, they are slated to be laid off first because they lack seniority.

New York is normally a trading town whose economic life is based to a great extent on largescale retail business. Few Negroes are in this field. Department stores, for example, employ almost no Negroes except in maintenance and service jobs. There are virtually no Negro sales help in the department stores.

War industries, such as shipbuilding and aircraft, which have opened a substantial number of jobs to Negroes during the war, are not expected to continue their present high levels of activity in the postwar period. Negroes in the aircraft industry will probably be harder hit than those in shipbuilding, Northrup says.

New York City is a Jim Crow town, industrially speaking. It may be easier here than in other Northern cities, for Negroes to eat in restaurants, go to the movies, and ride the street cars, but as far as getting good jobs is concerned, Negroes in New York are pretty much Jim Crow. The new anti-discrimination commission set up under the Ives-Quinn Act may help the situation if vigorously administered.

On the other hand, Northrup cites these factors as tending to brighten the postwar employment picture for Negroes in New York City:

Negroes have a fairly strong position in certain key industries here, notably the needle trades. They

Labor unions here are dedicated to a policy of racial equality and practice it. Northrup especially mentions the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers CIO, The International Ladies Garment Workers Union AFL, the Laundry Division of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers CIO, as well as a number of other influential unions.

RALEIGH, N. C., CAROLINIAN  
JUNE 2, 1945

## Ranking Candidate Says Color Bars Her from Dietitian Post

7-7-45

By LOUIS DYSON

NEW YORK—"They say a colored person has to be 10 times as good as a white, so I'll just keep trying to get the position I'm after and keep hoping that someday, maybe something will happen."

These words were spoken by Agnes B. Brooks, Harlem Hospital's head dietitian-teacher, and the only colored employee in the New York City Department of Hospitals holding that rank, in an exclusive interview with the AFRO this week.

Miss Brooks, a niece of A. Philip Randolph, was referring to her unsuccessful efforts to secure employment in the federal civil service as a home economics specialist's assistant after she was accorded an eligible rating in that examination taken in 1940.

### Prejudice Charged

"Had I not been colored, I would have been in public health service before," she continued. "I have received several letters from the federal civil service commission asking me whether I was willing to accept a position down South. One such letter suggested that the only opening they had was in Alabama."

"I don't want to go South. I want to stay in New York. There are many openings right here where they could place me. I even wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt about the whole matter, but nothing ever came of it."

Miss Brooks, who last week received a master of science degree from Columbia University in social welfare, nutrition, and public health, will write the civil service commission in Washington again telling them of her new qualifications.

### Topped List

In a city-wide examination for the position of dietitian several years ago and taken by three hundred applicants, she ranked first in a group of 50 of who passed.

Miss Brooks has been head dietitian-teacher at Harlem Hospital since October, 1936. This is a city civil service job. She does clinical work, which consists of instructing patients in operating rooms as to the types of food they should eat and the diets they should maintain; instructs students nurses in cooking and nutrition; and con-

sults with doctors and nurses regularly.

"My work is directing the food side of the hospital," she explained.

She said that at one time she applied for a head dietitian's job in the federal government and was given a rating as eligible for that position. Later, they sent her a letter advising her that she was eligible for a dietitian's rating only.

"I guess it's because there are no colored head dietitians in the service as yet."

### City Hospitals Praised

"I have never found any prejudice in the City Department of Hospitals, but have seen some in the federal service."

Miss Brooks received her B.S. degree from Howard University in home economics in 1936, and also a certificate from Miner Normal College in Washington, D.C.

Born in Baltimore, her family moved to Washington before she learned to read or write and was educated in the public and high schools there. Her mother, Mrs. Susie Brooks, lives in New York, and her brother, Charles Melvin, is married and works in the Department of Public Health in Washington.

Her plans are to continue studying for a doctor of philosophy degree in nutrition.

"I intend to become so qualified for the position I want in the federal service that they won't be able to say that I don't have the proper qualifications. It's quite expensive studying, but I aim to get what I'm after, in spite of discrimination."



MISS AGNES B. BROOKS

THE OUTLOOK in New York for Negro workers is not so bad, what with the State's anti-discrimination law going into effect this week. Similar though weaker bills have been killed in California and Massachusetts, with the same fate impending for the Illinois bill but a more hopeful prospect in Wisconsin. The chance of a permanent Federal FEPC seems to be "Gone With the Wind," proving beyond doubt that Hitler is not dead.

## N. Y. Times Refuses Job to John Clark

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — The New York Times last week informed John Louis Clarke that it "has no position on its editorial staff which it feels it could offer you." Clarke, on the editorial staff of the New York Peoples Voice and managing editor of the retrograde publication Color, had applied for a job on the Times copy desk, an upgraded editorial position.

New York daily newspapers have long maintained color bars against Negroes in editorial jobs. The Herald Tribune has Edgar Rouzeau, Daily Worker has Eugene Gordon, the Protestant magazine has the Rev. Ben Richardson, Earl Brown is with the Time-Life-Fortune combination, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle has Michael Carter.

## Stores By-Pass N. Y. Job Session

NEW YORK—A virtual boycott of a meeting, called Nov. 28 to advance the employment of colored workers in department stores, was effected by employers when only three of more than 50 invited to send delegates honored the in-

itation. 12-8-45

The meeting was held at the Women's City Club in the Hotel New Weston, under sponsorship of the League of Women Shoppers, and attended by representatives of 21 civic organizations embracing more than 100,000 members.

A committee was formed to conduct a door-to-door campaign, looking toward employment of colored people in sales and executive jobs in department stores; and Governor Dewey was urged to create immediately, advisory councils as the State's FEPC law provides.

### Reasons for Bias

Lane Bryant, Sachs Quality Furniture, and Mays Furs and Ready-to-Wear, Brooklyn, sent delegates. Mrs. Katherine Armata, LWS national chairman, said only four of 52 leading New York stores replied to a questionnaire on colored employment.



# Davis Moves to Ban Bias in City Jobs

By HARRY RAYMOND

*Daily Worker 11-21-45*

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Manhattan Communist, moved in the first post-election session of the City Council yesterday to outlaw racial and religious discrimination in all branches of city employment and in city - controlled training schools for nurses.

A pair of bills, introduced by Davis and sent to the General Welfare Committee, would:

1. Amend the City Charter to prohibit discrimination against any person in appointment to a city position "because of race, color, creed or national origin."

2. Forbid any officer or employee of the city in the exercise of his duties, or in power of appointment, to discriminate against any person "because of race, color, creed or national origin of such person."

3. Amend the Administrative Code so that no person qualified for admission to a nurses' training school shall be denied admission or be dismissed or suspended from training school because of race, color, creed or national origin of such person.

## CONEY ISLAND CREEK

Peter V. Cacchione, Brooklyn Communist, called for immediate action by the Mayor and Board of Estimate to clean up the Coney Island Creek area in Brooklyn.

A resolution by Cacchione stated Coney Island Creek could be improved by dredging and cleaning. It called for steps to improve the usefulness of the creek "as well as preventing its continued menace to persons living in contiguous areas."

A second resolution by Cacchione charged equipment of the City-owned Norton Point Trolley Line, running from Stillwell Ave. Station in Coney Island to Sea Gate, is "old and defective" and that the line is a hazard to passengers and pedestrians.

The resolution demanded the Board of Transportation replace the old trolley line with bus service to operate on Surf Ave. and Mermaid Ave. Subway passengers alighting at the Stillwell Ave. Station should receive free transfer service to the buses, Cacchione proposed.

## ASKS SCHOOL PROBE

A thorough Council investigation of administration of public schools was asked in a resolution jointly

introduced by Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs, Manhattan Republican, and Councilman Davis.

It called on the president of the Council and majority leaders to set dates for public hearings in which the entire Council will act as a committee to hear testimony on public school administration. The resolution, sent to the Committee on Rules, invites newly elected members of the Council to attend such hearings.

Earlier the Council adopted a bill by Majority Leader Joseph T. Sharkey permitting war veterans, who have gone past the 29-year old age limit for civil service examinations because of their military service, to take exams and qualify.

A resolution by Councilman Hugh Quinn, Queens Democrat, urging that a site in Queens be set aside as the "home of the United Nations Organization" was sent to committee.

Quinn pressed for immediate adoption of his resolution, stating the idea was backed by Mayor-elect William O'Dwyer. But objection to its adoption was raised when Sharkey suggested Brooklyn would be a good place for the United Nations Capital and Councilman Charles E. Keegan, Bronx Democrat, spoke up for the Bronx.

The borough-conscious councilmen, however, overlooked the possibility that United Nations leaders might want to have some say on location of their headquarters.

## N. Y. Stores Give Chill

## To Negro Job Meeting

*P.M.*  
Only 3 Represented

As Women Open Drive

To Boost Employment

A meeting called to advance the employment of Negroes in department stores was virtually boycotted

by the stores yesterday, only three being represented of more than 50 invited to send delegates.

The meeting, held at the Women's City Club in the Hotel New Weston, was called by the League of Women Shoppers and attended by representatives of 21 civic organizations with more than 100,000 members.

A committee was formed to start a door-to-door campaign to stimulate employment of Negroes in sales and executive jobs in department stores, and a resolution was passed calling on Gov. Dewey to urge immediate creation of advisory councils as provided by the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination law. The bill became law last July but only one council, in Buffalo, has been appointed by the State Commission Against Discrimination.

## Training Centers

The only stores represented were Lane Bryant, Sachs Quality Furniture, and May's Furs and Ready-to-Wear, of Brooklyn. William G. Goldman, of Sachs, and Rose Shimborg, of May's, both said trained Negro salespeople were hard to get, and Goldman urged the committee to set up a training center. The Lane Bryant representative, who refused to give his name, said he came merely to listen, not to talk.

Mrs. Katharine Armatage, national chairman of the LWS, said only four of 52 leading New York stores replied to a questionnaire on employment of Negroes, and that a follow-up campaign to interview heads of the stores resulted in only

three talks, all off the record.

She said the store executives gave three reasons for not hiring Negroes: they are not accepted by white employees, the stores would lose customers, and anyway they don't want to be the first to take such a step.

Statistics

Sam Kovenetsky, representing Local I-S, Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Employees Union, CIO, said that since the Ives-Quinn bill became law Macy's has hired eight Negroes, including one at the telephone order board. He said Saks-34th St. has 25 Negro employees, none in a sales job, Gimbels has 35 to 40, none sales jobs, and Hearn's 10 to 15, some of them selling.

Councilman Stanley Isaacs said "we must convince all business groups in New York that we are in favor of true democracy," and Fan-



Miss Hurst



Isaacs

nie Hurst, novelist, called for an educational campaign stressing tolerance and employment without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.

Morris J. Kaplan, deputy area director of the United States Employment Service, reported that Negroes employed in clerical and sales jobs all over the country increased to nearly 100,000 from only 12,650 in 1940, and said they were fully accepted by white co-workers in most cases.

## JC Practices Voluntarily Ended by N.Y. Concerns

*Afro-American*  
Head of State Anti-Bias Board Reveals Plan to Strengthen Law, Set Up City Groups

*Baltimore, Md.*  
NEW YORK—Henry C. Turner, State chairman of the State Commission Against Discrimination on Nov. 10 disclosed that several department stores, a large insurance company and three banks have voluntarily ended job discrimination since July 1.

Speaking before the Welfare Council Conference Group on Employment and Vocational Guidance, he commended them for having hired colored persons in clerical capacities without any pressure

from the commission or any other agency.

Stating that he was in no position to identify the concerns, he declared, nevertheless, that one of the bands had also granted to the colored workers the privileges of using the employees' dining room.

## 162 Charges; No Hearings

In a review of the commission's work, he revealed that 162 complaints had been filed up to Nov. 1, of which 120 originated in New York City, no hearings had been held.

Of the complaints, 44 were dismissed because the commission lacked jurisdiction; 12 were dismissed as unfounded; 5 others were withdrawn, and 40 investigated, he added.

Pointing out that the commission's work does not stop when an employer promises an end to discrimination but follows through to avert any repetition, he said that 79 complaints are still being studied.

*11-24-45*  
Color Basis of Most  
Color, he declared, was the basis of 75 of the charges; religion of 35 and nationality of 31.

Mr. Turner further told the assembly that the commission will seek "modifications to strengthen the law against discrimination" and plans to set up advisory and conciliation councils in the major cities, adding that one is already functioning in Buffalo.



# Larry MacPhail Defies State FEPC

By NAT LOW

*The Daily Worker*  
New York, New York

Larry MacPhail, president of the New York Yankees, yesterday openly defied the State Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination Law by proclaiming, "I have no intention of signing Negro players." 9-25-45

This arrogant law-defying stand was the conclusion of a four-page, single-spaced typewritten report which the Yankee boss submitted to the recently formed Mayor's committee to "investigate Jimcrow in baseball."

The report, throughout which a lower case "n" is used in the word Negro, defends the existing Hitler-like ban in the major leagues and openly admits that "organized baseball derives substantial revenues from operation of the negro league. . . . The Yankee Organization, alone, nets nearly \$100,000 per year from rentals and concessions in connection with negro league games."

## SPECIOUS ARGUMENTS

This brazen admission that the Yankees profit from Jimcrow discrimination is only one of the revolting arguments advanced by this alleged "progressive" magnate.

Chock full of patronizing solicitude for Negro players and Negro baseball which pervades the early section of the report, MacPhail bares his white-supremacy fangs on page 3 with the oft-shattered "theory" that Negro players are incapable of attaining the major leagues.

To quote: "There are few, if any, negro players who could qualify for play in the major leagues at this time."

This in face of the fact that more than 100 white major league stars and managers, including many members of MacPhail's Yankee organization, have stated time and again that Negro players could easily make the grade in the majors.

MacPhail's report, as phony as a nine-dollar bill, is full of easily-demolished contradictions which are feeble attempts to cover up his true anti-democratic position.

For instance, in his second "principal reason why negro players have not been signed," MacPhail says, "Even

if Organized Baseball wanted to sign these players, it could not do so without violating the contractual relationship existing between the negro leagues and their players."

This specious argument ignores the simple fact that ALL baseball players are signed to contracts and that the only way in which a major league club can get a player from the minors is to buy his contract.

And further. "Signing a few negro players for the major leagues would be a gesture which would contribute little or nothing towards the solution of the basic problem."

This, of course, is sheer gibberish, and does not require a sincere answer.

## PHONY PROMISE

Towards the end of his report, MacPhail, fearing a resurgent campaign on the part of New York's citizens and baseball fans, says, "On the other hand, I believe the negro is entitled to a better deal in baseball and I will favor any practical program to produce this result. . . . If and when the negro leagues approve, and other difficulties can be overcome, I personally favor adoption of some plan under which a limited number of negro players, who first establish ability, character, and aptitude in their own leagues, might advance to the majors or big minors of Organized Baseball."

This is sheer tommyrot, as MacPhail so well knows. In the first place, there can be no practical program which doesn't sign Negro players. And according to MacPhail himself, he has "no intentions of signing negro players."

Besides, who is this man to say that "negro players must first establish ability, character and aptitude"? Let MacPhail get his own house in order before he offers "advise" to the Negro leagues. But the Yankee boss really has no interest in getting the Negro baseball leagues in order; he is simply devising, with this argument, another manner in which he can prevent democracy from operating in our Great National Pastime.

All honest baseball fans will see through these arguments by MacPhail, which are not arguments at all but the shrewd maneuverings of a man who is determined to keep white supremacy practices intact.

But these stalls will not work. MacPhail has evidently overstepped himself by the public admission that he will not sign Negro players.

This statement, in open opposition to the Law of the State of New York, can land him in jail, for the law states that "discrimination in industry because of race, creed or color, is punishable by jail or fine or both."



# Ives Statement on Anti-Race Bills

New York Times  
Feb. 12-13-45

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALBANY, Feb. 12—The text of the statement relating to anti-discrimination legislation issued to-night by Assemblyman Irving M. Ives follows:

When, on June 19, 1944, the New York State Temporary Commission Against Discrimination was organized, my attitude toward the solution of the problem of discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin was probably very similar to the feeling of some of those who today are opposing the commission's recommendation. At that time I knew little about the problem and felt that the proper solution must lie largely in a broad program of education. Undoubtedly some of the other members of the commission then had a similar viewpoint.

As members of the commission, however, we undertook our task—in so far as it was possible for us to do so—with open minds, free from prejudice and with a determination to be guided by the truth. On this basis we made our surveys, conducted our hearings and reached our conclusions.

We found that discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin not only has existed, but does exist. In this connection, there was forcibly brought to our attention a fact of which some of us had not been sufficiently aware—discrimination in itself is evidence of a fundamental contradiction in our American way of life.

## "Guaranteeing Liberty to All"

We boast of America as the land of opportunity, guaranteeing to all our people liberty, equality, justice and fair play. These ideals and principles are incorporated in the Declaration of Independence, in our Federal Constitution and even in our own State Constitution.

Section 11 of Article I of the Constitution of New York State reads as follows: "No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this State or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, creed or religion, be subjected to any discrimination in his civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the State or any agency or subdivision of the State."

This constitutional guarantee, however, is implemented by more than a dozen different New York State statutes which cover nearly every phase of the question of discrimination. Failure to observe and enforce these constitutional and statutory provisions, in which we profess to believe, constitutes what has been termed our "American dilemma." As a

people we have failed and are failing to put into practice the idealism for which our young men and young women are fighting and dying on the battlefields of the world.

## Four Courses Are Outlined

In New York State there are four courses which we can take in meeting the problem of discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin:

We can continue to follow in the future the policy of drifting and indifference where these matters are concerned which has characterized our attitude in the past. Because of present-day conditions, with the grave tensions which exist among various sections of our population and which may increase in the period of economic readjustment following the war, this course is likely to be impossible—whether we wish it or not.

We can repeal Section 11 of Article I of our State Constitution and our State statutes which deal with discrimination. This course is virtually impossible—if for no other reason than because it is practically out of the question.

We can make provision for the proper enforcement of the constitutional mandate and the existing State statutes pertaining to discrimination. This course is possible and can be made effective through the appropriation of funds with which to establish the necessary governmental enforcement machinery. This course, however, is fraught with danger because such enforcement might be carried out by those who themselves would be prejudiced or unsympathetic or without understanding of the task assigned them. Furthermore, this kind of enforcement might bring with it an army of field agents and investigators and inspectors to further bedevil the problem.

## Centered on Employment

We can establish a new agency of government to handle the most important phase of the discrimination problem—discrimination in employment. The operation of this agency can be placed with persons of outstanding fairness and possessing common sense. This last course is the one advocated by the Temporary State Commission Against Discrimination.

Under the legislation proposed by the Temporary Commission, "the opportunity to obtain employment without discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin is \* \* \* recognized as and declared to be a civil right." By this declaration no new right would be created; rather this statement of principle would be recognition of a fundamental right already existing under the natural law and since

1938 embodied in the Constitution of the State.

The Temporary Commission's plan provides for the establishment in the Executive Department of a permanent State commission against discrimination, consisting of five members with salaries of \$10,000 each. Because of the prominence of its position in the State Government and the salaries to be paid its members, this new commission should attract citizens who are exceptionally well qualified to perform the very delicate work to which they would be thus assigned.

Certain powers and duties essential to its proper functioning would be given to the permanent commission. This authority, however, would be strictly limited by statute.

Allegations and propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding, complaints coming before the commission could be filed only by statute, and inasmuch as many of the complainant or his attorney-at-law, or by the Industrial Commissioner, or the Attorney General, and even then these complaints would have to be verified, and in writing, it should be further understood that any complaint "must be filed within ninety days after the alleged act of discrimination," and this restriction alone would go far toward removing any danger of abuse. Properly administered by the commission, the proposed statute would afford virtually no opportunity for a racket in the matter of complaints.

## Conciliation, Persuasion First

Under the procedural provisions by which the commission would operate, "conference, conciliation and persuasion" would be mandatory in the first instance. This requirement is vital because experience has shown that 95 per cent of cases involving discrimination in employment can be and are being settled by this process. Moreover, by insistence upon mediation, a type of procedure which has always proved beneficial, would be required by law.

Most important of all, efforts to mediate would be carried on by a member of the commission, whose endeavors would be of a confidential nature. This requirement is significant because it is indicative of the personal responsibility which would attach to the commission membership in all of the commission's activities and procedures.

If perchance, the efforts at mediation should fail, the "cease and desist" procedure, which is common practice in the matter of collective bargaining, would then be instituted. The case would be presented to three of the other four members of the commission. If the respondent were found to have violated the statute, he would then be ordered to cease and desist from his unlawful em-

ployment practice and, upon his refusal to comply with the order, the case would be subject to judicial review.

## Commission Findings Conclusive

It is important to note that, except in the matter of evidence, the general procedure in the course of judicial review would follow that which is prescribed in the State Labor Relation Act. In so far as evidence is concerned, however, "the findings of the commission as to the facts shall be conclusive if supported by sufficient evidence on the record considered as a whole." This provision is vital to the minorities because it would guarantee to them the full protection of the courts which, under our system of government, are the final bulwark of freedom.

Some hostile criticism has been levelled at the proposed legislation because of its misdemeanor penalty. Inasmuch as this is the lightest penalty which would assure enforcement of the proposed anti-discrimination statutes, carry penalties at least as severe, criticism of this nature is somewhat surprising.

Indeed, it must be assumed that this kind of criticism comes largely from those who are wholly opposed to the proposal and would destroy its effectiveness by the elimination of all penalty provisions. Surely, without any penalty provision, the statute would be worthless, for the efforts of any commission operating under it would be futile.

In this connection it should be observed that the procedure provided in the proposed legislation would be "exclusive." By this is meant that, once a proceeding pertaining to an alleged act of discrimination were to be started before the commission, no other recourse by the complainant would be available under any other anti-discrimination statute of the State. On the other hand, if action of this kind were first begun under one of these other State statutes, the complainant would then be barred from taking his case to the commission. In other words, according to the layman's concept, there is no "double jeopardy."

It seems to me, however, that the most vital feature of the proposed legislation is to be found in its educational provisions. By these provisions the permanent commission would be authorized to establish in New York State "advisory agencies and conciliation councils, local, regional or State-wide," and "to issue such publications" and to carry on such "investigations and research as in its judgment will tend to promote good-will and minimize and eliminate discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin." Here would be definitely instituted a program of adult education aimed to combat discrimination. Through this kind

of program and with the power it could exercise in directly striving to overcome discrimination in employment, the influence of the new commission should be far-reaching in the elimination of discrimination in all fields of activity.

## "Must Have Faith in Humans"

In order to believe that the scourge of discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin can be removed from our national life, we must have faith in the human race. We must have faith that the ordinary man is sincere in proclaiming the ideals and principles for which he professes to stand.

My experience in the work of the Temporary State Commission against discrimination has increased my own faith in the human race. The attitude of the members of our commission, the earnestness and sincerity of the many who appeared before us at our hearings—these things have convinced me that we can look to the solution of the problems involved in discrimination with confidence.

I believe that the ordinary man wants to do the honest thing and the right thing. I believe that the ordinary man tries to be fair. I believe that the ordinary man has the courage of his convictions and sometimes needs only to be shown how to express that courage.

I do not yield to the gloom of those who, predicating their prophecies on the idea of weak, unfit, inept commission members, predict all manner of evil consequences from the establishment of such an agency of government as we propose. I have faith that the membership of this new commission would possess the quality and ability and integrity which are essential to the commission's success. Believing, moreover, that the proposed statute is moderate, reasonable and workable, I have faith that its enactment would produce vastly improved human relationships.

## The Washington Post Perennial 'Jim Crow' Bill Appears in Md.

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 4 (AP).—The perennial bid for repeal of Maryland's so-called "Jim Crow" statute popped up again today right behind 110 Legislative Council bills, when the Senator from Baltimore City's Fourth District introduced it in the Upper Chamber.

Senator J. Milton Ankfeld (D., Baltimore Fourth) drew up the bill, which would repeal the law requiring intrastate trains and steamboats to provide separate cars or quarters for white and Negro passengers.

The memory of Dr. Horace F. Flack, director of the Bureau of Legislative Reference and expert on laws, recalls almost no session

on the board once he has issued a complaint against an alleged offender. But this has necessitated the requirement that only three members of the commission shall hear and pass upon a complaint. And in any event the case in support of the complaint is to be presented before the commission by one of its own attorneys or agents. Though there are, unfortunately, some recent precedents for this arrangement, it is unsound. It is not in accord with the spirit of Anglo-Saxon law. The agency or official that judges the com-

plaint should be placed before each use of the word in the bill. The second amendment is more important, because it would apply to the organizational set-up in the bill. At present the proposed State commission against discrimination, consisting of five members, would be in the dual position of acting as both complainant and judge against an employer or union. This is mitigated, it is true, by a provision that the particular Commissioner who has tried to settle a case by conciliation or persuasion should not sit

on the board once he has issued a complaint against an alleged offender. But this has necessitated the requirement that only three members of the commission shall hear and pass upon a complaint. And in any event the case in support of the complaint is to be presented before the commission by one of its own attorneys or agents. Though there are, unfortunately, some recent precedents for this arrangement, it is unsound. It is not in accord with the spirit of Anglo-Saxon law. The agency or official that judges the com-

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THE IVES BILL  
New York Times  
There are at least two amendments to the Ives-Quinn bill that ought to be acceptable to the great bulk of its supporters. They would clarify the bill and not refuse to hire a declared reactionary position of acting as both complainant and judge against an employer or union. This is mitigated, it is true, by a provision that the particular Commissioner who has tried to settle a case by conciliation or persuasion should not sit



plaint should be entirely independent of the agency or official that brings it. In addition to a commission with compulsory powers of judgment, there should be a separate commission or administrator whose agents should make the first efforts at conciliation, with power to pass on the complaint to the judging commission if these efforts at conciliation failed, or if they were convinced that discrimination was being practiced. Such a separation of complainant and judge would enable the commission to operate more efficiently at the same time as it would provide added protection from arbitrary action against those charged with being offenders.

#### Minority Pressure Seen

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Why cannot we all lay aside the mask of hypocrisy and concede that the passage of the Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination Bill would not be a victory for liberalism but a surrender of a freedom which, although not referred to in the Atlantic Charter, nevertheless embodies one of the fundamental principles of every American citizen, no matter what his racial origin or religion may be—the right to work and associate with whom he pleases?

If this bill passes, it will only come about as a matter of political expediency and will indicate that a well-organized minority has the great Empire State by the throat. So I am authoritatively informed by my friends in the State Legislature.

These are days of emotional regimentation, when very few dare to tell the truth. Not being in politics and compelled to sell my soul to obtain a few extra votes at the next election, I feel free to confess that for the first time in my life I am ashamed to be a New Yorker.

INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN.

Brooklyn, Feb. 23, 1945.

**ANTI-RACIAL BILL  
PASSED BY SENATE,  
RUSHED TO DEWEY**

**Ives-Quinn Measure Wins by  
49-to-6 Vote in Late  
Session at Albany**

**A LAST-MINUTE BATTLE**

**Amendment for Referendum**

## Is Rejected—Would Have Caused a Long Delay

By LEO EGAN

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, March 5—The Senate late tonight passed the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill.

The measure now goes to Governor Dewey for his signature. It was approved last week by the Assembly in precisely the form it passed the Senate tonight. The final vote in the Assembly was 109 to 32.

Governor Dewey's approval of the measure is a foregone conclusion. In the weeks that the legislation was pending in the Senate and Assembly he took an active part in corraling votes in its favor.

The vote was 49 to 6. Voting in favor of the bill were twenty-eight Republicans and twenty-one Democrats. Six Republicans were recorded in opposition.

The measure, which has split the Republicans into opposing groups, sets up a State commission against discrimination of five members and directs that it proceed to the elimination of discrimination in employment on the grounds of race, creed, color or national origin.

#### Would Authorize Councils

In carrying out this legislative mandate the commission is empowered to receive and investigate complaints and to compel employers, labor unions and employment agencies to put an end to discriminatory practices. It is also authorized to set up advisory councils and agencies and to engage in educational and community activities designed to promote good-will between all groups in the State.

The commission may direct employers to hire, reinstate or promote employees who have been victims of racial or religious discrimination. They may also direct labor unions to admit or reinstate applicants who have been refused admission because of race or religion.

The bill provides two methods of enforcing compliance with commission orders. Like corresponding orders of the State Labor Relations Board, they may be enforced through the civil process of the courts with recalcitrant respondents subject to punishment for contempt of court. Willful violators may also become subject to criminal penalties, involving a fine of \$500 or one year in jail or both.

#### Rail Brotherhoods Object

Arguments for and against the bill in the Senate were expected to follow the general lines that prevailed in the Assembly and at earlier public hearings before the temporary commission that drafted and recommended the legislation.

Employer groups, employment agencies and two of the railway labor brotherhoods contend that the bill will not only fail to promote harmonious relationships between minority groups and the rest of the population, but will operate to increase racial tensions and to solidify minority groups and to promote factionalism. The penal provisions of the law, it is contended, will result in the harassment of employers.

Advocates of the legislation claim its enactment is needed now to prevent serious economic dislocations and possible race riots in the post-war economic readjustment and to make good on promises given in the State Constitution to minorities that they will not be discriminated against in economic opportunities.

Among the amendments scheduled to be offered in the Senate tonight before a final vote is taken is one by Senator Frederic H. Bontecou that would postpone the effective date of the legislation until it had been approved by the voters of the State at a referendum.

## NEW YORK Against Discrimination

New York State debated last week the problems of racial and religious discrimination. The spur was the Ives-Quinn bill, introduced in the State Legislature, to outlaw discrimination in employment for reasons of race, color or creed. This bill would set up a permanent five-man State Commission Against Discrimination, which would attack the problem in two ways: (1) It would carry on an educational campaign among employer and employee groups in an effort to ease racial tensions by arbitration and mediation; (2) it would have power to investigate and bring charges against employers accused of discrimination. Violators of the code would be liable to fines up to \$500 and imprisonment up to one year.

This program was blueprinted by a committee appointed by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey last June. It had bi-partisan backing in the Legislature. Yet it encountered sharp opposition, particularly among employer groups, chambers of commerce and some labor unions. This opposition found support among

up-State Republican legislators who forced the State Senate to call a public hearing on the bill. At the four-hour hearing Tuesday in the Assembly Chamber, 400 persons gave their view on the legislation. By a ratio of eight to one they favored adoption.

#### For the Bill

Representatives of labor, Negro, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish organizations spoke in favor. They said the proposal was primarily a method of putting teeth in Constitutional guarantees against discrimination, that although attitudes could not be controlled by legislation, unfair practices could. One spokesman said if the bill failed of passage in New York a similar program could never be undertaken elsewhere; that it would be proof that discrimination was imbedded in the American economy.

Spokesmen for the opposing groups approved the educational features of the bill and centered their attack on the punitive provisions. These, they claimed, would foment rather than ease tensions. They said also that such a law would deprive management of its rights in selecting personnel, might even drive industries from New York. After the hearing one leading Senatorial opposition leader commented: "It looks as though we are banging our heads against a stone wall."

**NEW YORK,  
Pittsburgh Courier  
INDIANA  
PASS FAIR  
JOB BILLS  
Pittsburgh, Pa.**

ALBANY, N.Y.—In a ceremony, termed by Governor Dewey as "an historic occasion," he fixed his signature at 12:30 P. M. Monday of this week to the Ives-Quinn Bill. The measure is the first in the history of any State that sets up workable machinery for outlawing discrimination in employment against racial, religious and national minorities.

Witnessing the ceremony were the twenty-three members of the Temporary Commission Against Discrimination which drafted the bill and recommended its passage.

TO NAME COMMISSION  
Governor Dewey has until July 1 to name a five-man commission to enforce the new law. Among those known to be under consideration, or being strongly urged upon the Governor, are:

Charles H. Tuttle, volunteer unpaid counsel to the Temporary Commission.

John F. Brosnan, member of the Temporary Commission, and prominent Catholic layman.

Mrs. Marjorie S. Eccles, wife of the Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Jane Todd, former Assemblywoman from Westchester, now vice chairman of the Republican State Committee.

Eunice H. Carter, Assistant District Attorney, in New York City. Some doubt was felt that Tuttle, who has a large New York law practice, would neglect appointment to the commission for a \$10,000-a-year job on the enforcement committee.

#### OTHER BILLS HELD UP

Prospects for further legislative action against discrimination at this session dimmed, when the Senate Majority Leader, Benjamin F. Feinberg (R., Plattsburg), refused to allow public hearings on a bill to bar discrimination in the admission to non-sectarian schools.

## Prison to End Bias Question

By KARL PRETSHOLD

The Attica State Prison at Attica, N. Y., which has been violating the Ives-Quinn law, prohibiting discrimination in employment by asking job applicants their race, will cease that practice at once, Dr. Walter B. Martin, prison warden, has announced.

The Ives-Quinn law is designed to eliminate job discrimination by reason of "race, creed, color or national origin." It specifically forbids an employer from using job application forms inquiring as to an applicant's race.

#### Wants Photos

The Attica Prison has been circulating questionnaires among persons who passed State civil service examinations and who sought jobs at the prison asking their race. The questionnaire also contained the direction: "If possible submit a recent photograph."

When PM called these facts to the attention of C. L. Campbell, administrative director of the State Civil Service Commission he said he would investigate at once. Later when PM questioned Dr. Martin he said:

"I admit that (the question as to 'race') shouldn't be there. It won't be used any more."

He added that the forms were old ones and that he did not realize they were still being used.

#### Warned

Campbell said the request for a photo of the job applicant would also be eliminated from the Attica questionnaire. All State agencies

with which the Civil Service deals, forcing the Ives-Quinn law, said the he added, have been warned not to use questions which violate the Ives-Quinn law.

Henry C. Turner, chairman of SCAD (State Commission Against Discrimination) charged with en-



45c-1945

**The Ives-Quinn Bill****New Masses**

**D**URING this month of proud anniversaries of America's great liberators, New York has been considering the first state law against discrimination in employment. The widely approved Ives-Quinn bill for fair employment practices was, however, suddenly withdrawn from consideration by the legislature and was subjected to new public hearings. Progressive forces always favor public hearings for important legislative acts. But this bill had already enjoyed public hearings in all parts of the state. The new move for more hearings was engineered by the State Senate Finance Committee on the motion of Sen. Frederick R. Coudert, the erstwhile attorney for Vichy and the recent witch-hunter-in-chief in our educational system.

Rarely has a progressive bill received such broad and wholehearted support from religious, civic, business, labor and professional groups. It was introduced as a bipartisan measure. The New York City Council gave it unanimous support. All signs pointed to its speedy adoption until Senator Coudert organized hasty efforts to stall action in the hope of eventually killing or emasculating it. Coudert cites ten unnamed business organizations and the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen as the forces behind the demand for delay. It is unfortunate that the Brotherhood of Firemen lends its name to this reactionary move; the state CIO and AFL are actively supporting the bill. Among the quiet opponents of the measure are a group of liberals headed by the isolationist Oswald Garrison Villard, who in a collective letter to the New York Times voiced their opposition and called for a public enlightenment campaign as a substitute for legislative action. This muddleheaded plea in the name of liberalism helps cloak the reactionaries' efforts to protect un-American practices.

Governor Dewey, with an eye cocked on the 1946 election, has belatedly and cautiously indicated his support of the Ives-Quinn bill. The weight of public opinion must be brought to bear to assure passage of an essential measure that will strengthen the war effort and help in solving the problems of the peace.

N.Y.

**Ives Bill****Ives Bill Finds Approval****New York Times**

Proposed Measure Viewed as Means of

**Curbing Discrimination**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

In THE NEW YORK TIMES of Feb. 12 is a letter opposing the Ives Anti-Discrimination Bill now before New York State legislators. The major point of this letter seems to be that the difficulties and discriminations faced by minority groups cannot be effectively eliminated by legislation. The authors of the letter state: "What is really needed is a better public sentiment." Again they write: "It is \* \* \* impossible to destroy prejudice and discrimination by law. \* \* \* It is far wiser to rely on the force of slow but steadily growing public opinion."

The alternative posed here is false and harmful. Legislation against discrimination is not the enemy of education but an aid to it. In the past, as the fruit of anti-discriminatory legislation, many employers have hired members of minority groups, have come to know them personally and seen them work, and have thereby learned to appreciate their capacity and contribution in working shoulder to shoulder with other employees.

**Laws Not Sole Remedy**

It is true that racial prejudice cannot be eliminated by legislation alone, since prejudice is largely a matter of emotional attitude. Discrimination, however, is not primarily a matter of internal unbrotherly feelings but of external unbrotherly actions—the proper and effective sphere for legislation with teeth. It should also be said that legislation can help create conditions in which even prejudices can be significantly reduced by opening up new experiences of interpersonal relationship and first-hand contact.

It is not the members of the majority group first of all, but rather to those who know discrimination from first-hand experience, that we should go for judgment whether strong legislation infunds! One of the handicaps of this general, and the Ives bill in particular, will or will not reduce discriminations against minority groups. It is significant that the various organized Negro groups concerned with both education and action for equal opportunities and against discrimination are united in their strong support of the Ives bill.

The people who actually suffer from discrimination obviously are not satisfied with wishful hoping and thinking that the discriminations will gradually end at some unspecified date in the

future. They properly demand specific legislative action now to help provide fulfillment for our wishes.

**Argument Opposed**

The argument that creation of a bureau to enforce the provisions of the Ives bill may lend itself to political abuse is one that can be used against any social agency set up by legislation. This is a real test of democratic government. If it be admitted that American political democracy cannot stand this test, by our admission we put a powerful instrument in the hands of those who would like to see democracy overthrown in favor of some form of totalitarianism.

The letter in THE TIMES seems to imply that there is some dichotomy between the State FEPC envisioned by the Ives bill and the national FEPC. The regional director of the FEPC here assures me that, on the contrary, passage of the Ives bill will be of great help in maintaining and strengthening the FEPC nationally. Many Washington eyes are on Albany. Defeat of the Ives bill would open the way nationally for the retrogressive Taft proposal to further "investigate" rather than stop, undemocratic and unbrotherly racial and religious job discrimination.

JACK R. MCMICHAEL,

Executive Secretary, Methodist Federation for Social Service.

New York, Feb. 13, 1945.

**Legislation Held No Remedy**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

The thoughtful and timely letter on discrimination which appeared in THE TIMES of Feb. 13 should be widely read and pondered. It clearly states the inescapable defects of legislation such as is now pending in the State Legislature on that subject.

Discrimination is a state of mind, stemming from ignorance. As it is so well pointed out in the letter, legislation is not the answer. Such legislation would inevitably increase and intensify the evil instead of remedying it. And the waste, and worse, of public funds! One of the handicaps of this country is the widespread sentiment, on most occasions, that "there ought to be a law."

GEORGE H. BARTHOLOMEW,

New York, Feb. 13, 1945.

**IVES-QUINN ACTION  
DELAYED BY DEATH****New York Times**Member's Funeral Defers the  
Assembly Vote and May Hold**Up One in Senate a Week****N.Y.C. 2-26-45**

By LEO EGAN

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Feb. 25.—The Assembly vote on the controversial Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination Bill, that had been scheduled for tomorrow night, is being postponed until Wednesday because of the death over the week-end of Assemblyman John H. Ferril, Queens Democrat, Oswald D. Heck, Speaker of the Assembly, disclosed tonight.

The change may delay enactment of the measure until next week, as it will not be taken up by the Senate until it has been approved by the Assembly and re-proposed in identical form to the upper chamber.

Speaker Heck explained that change in plans had been made because so many members from New York City desired to attend Mr. Ferril's funeral on Tuesday.

Despite the change in schedule, Assembly leaders are still driving towards final adjournment of the regular session during the week of March 19. Governor Dewey's in the Assembly on Tuesday and a tentative deadline for the introduction of new legislation, except by direction of a committee, has been set tentatively for Thursday.

MORE—PICK UP 1ST ADD

**Little Ives-Quinn Debate**

Present indications are that the anti-discrimination bill will get up wards of 100 votes in the Assembly, with seventy-six needed for passage, and at least thirty-five votes in the Senate where twenty-nine are required.

With such small prospect of success before them, Assemblymen offered and Senators opposed to the Ives-Quinn bill are not expected to insist upon any prolonged debate. The measure, which is opposed by employer groups and two of the railroad brotherhoods, would set up a five-man permanent commission to root out discrimination in employment of employers, labor unions and employment agencies.

The Governor's budget bills were approved by the Ways and Means Committee virtually without change. His recommendations that almost all state employees receive pay increases on a sliding scale and that the budget law provide for locking up automatically any budgetary surplus for the approaching fiscal year are expected to provoke a partisan debate.

**Fiscal Plan of Democrats**

Democratic members are as insistent as the Governor upon an upward revision in the pay of state employees, but they propose a flat \$500 emergency increase to everyone.

The Governor's plan would give those receiving \$1,500 or less a 20 per cent increase, those in the

\$1,500 to \$2,000 bracket 17½ per cent; those in the \$2,000 to \$3,000 bracket 15 per cent; those in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 class 12½ per cent and those from \$4,000 and up 10 per cent, but in no event more than \$1,000.

The Democrats also want to appropriate enough out of the prospective \$86,000,000 surplus to permit municipalities and counties to make corresponding pay adjustments to local civil service employees.

**Three Remaining Hurdles**

After disposal of the discrimination and budget bills, only three major pieces of controversial legislation will remain, revision of the Friedsam formula governing State aid to education, merit rating or a substitute for it in unemployment insurance and judicial reform.

Legislative leaders see little prospect of any serious difficulty over continuation for another year of New York City's emergency

A report from the special committee named by the Governor in March 19. Governor Dewey's in the Assembly on Tuesday and a tentative deadline for the introduction of new legislation, except by direction of a committee, has been set tentatively for Thursday.

The open question as to whether New York would follow the lead of forty-two other States and adopt some form of merit rating for unemployment insurance will be left to the final weeks of the session.

Hearings on various plans have been scheduled for March 6, indubly, with seventy-six needed for passage, and at least thirty-five the chambers until the week of March 12.

In anticipation of Thursday's deadline many new bills will be offered tomorrow and Tuesday. Among them will be one by Senator Thomas C. Desmond, Republican, of Newburgh proposing the restoration of direct primaries for the nomination of State-wide candidates by the major parties.



# Ives Bill Exempts Educational Institutions

AFRO-AMERICAN

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## Will N.Y. Public Library Be Permitted to Continue Discrimination?

**LIBRARY'S PRESENT POLICY**—Application blank questions race of prospective employee. No colored among sixteen hundred working at Central Building. All branch libraries and central circulation department supported by city funds. 3-24-45

Writer says other States should try to improve on the nation's first FEPC law which is good but does not go far enough. He points out that many persons will still be barred from teaching, clerical and supervisory jobs in the city's public

By D. R. RICHARDS

**NEW YORK**—The exemption of educational institutions from compliance with the first State FEPC law in America, New York's Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill, is an evil which should not be overlooked, AFRO investigations revealed this week. In addition, he asks whether Mayor LaGuardia, an ex-officio member of the public library's trustee board, approves of the discriminatory employment application.

gations revealed this week.

As the bill now stands, thousands of highly educated colored men and women would continue to be jim-crowded from teaching, clerical, library, and supervisory jobs in

plication. Under question 3 of Other States following the ex-ae blank you are asked to state ample should try to do a better your race. Naturally, the applica-job. There are no two ways tion was never filled out. about discrimination—either it

What makes this situation most exasperating is the fact that the city maintains all the branch libraries and the circulation department in the central building. Only the reference department receives its appropriations from other sources, mostly private. exists, even in a small way, or it doesn't at all. all of this city's schools, colleges, and libraries. It is admitted that since the war, a few have been appointed here and there, but the number has been only a faint trickle in comparison with those who have applied. 3-24-45

There are 1,600 people working in the central building alone, with hundreds of others in the various branches. 3-24-45

In view of the discriminatory employment application, is it any wonder that so few colored librarians have been hired? This is evident as you pass through department by department in the central building without seeing a colored employee.

### Does Mayor Approve?

A reference librarian revealed that the work of the library system is administered by a board of twenty-five trustees, of which number the Mayor and president of the city council are ex-officio members.

This being the case, the whole procedure is certainly no feather in the cap of Mr. LaGuardia. No doubt he knows what's going on, and his silence signifies approval.

The Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill does not warrant any change in this practice, which is unfortunate. With the loophole that has been left open for them, all educational institutions in New York will retain their status quo in regard to the colored race.

This law is a good one, and it took a lot of fight to push it through. However, it doesn't go far enough, because it isn't all-inclusive. 3-24-45

New York has again shown the way for the rest of the nation.

## Governor Dewey & The Ives-Quinn Act

New York Amsterdam News

Governor Dewey's refusal to be stampeded into an attempt to force the novel and highly controversial Wicks Bill through the State Legislature last year might easily have cost him the Negro vote and the Presidency; but the Negro and other minority groups who stand to benefit under the Ives-Quinn Bill owe the Governor an everlasting debt of gratitude for his courage in sidetracking the original bill, and at the same time, laying the groundwork for the successful enactment of the measure which he signed into law on March 12th.

Even Governor Dewey's severest critics admit it would have been impossible to secure favorable action on the Wicks Bill, considering the fact that the measure was introduced in the Legislature only 10 days before the session was due to close. This is better understood when it is remembered that the charge was made by opponents of the Ives-Quinn Bill that more time was needed to study it. This, in spite of the fact that the draft of the bill had had the widest publicity possible for several months, and public hearings had been held in five of the State's largest cities. 3-24-45

We believe the Governor was right in taking the position that no attempt should be made to crowd the bill, that the people were entitled to be fully heard before the legislators were called upon to vote on such a bill, and that the legislators themselves should have ample time to study a measure so far-reaching in import.

Never before had such a delicate piece of legislation been placed before a State Legislature, and it required the skill of a master statesman to win the support of the diverse interests, which were so vital to its success. Public sentiment also had to be won for the Bill. One bad move, one fumble and the measure might have been irrevocably lost.

Had the Governor possessed less integrity, he might have sent the Bill on to the Legislature, and when it failed to pass he might have blamed the Legislators. It would not have been fair to the Legislators, whose enmity he might have incurred; nor to the people of the State, especially those groups it was designed to help—groups who were merely seeking justice, not special privilege. 3-24-45

Further, the Governor might have gained personally for the moment in fostering the original bill and he might have forestalled some of the vicious criticism that was heaped upon him during the campaign, but such a course would not have helped the cause in which he was interested. For, while it was obvious he would be the Republican candidate for President, and was fully conscious of the appeal of such legislation as the Wicks Bill sought to enact, the Governor refused to sabotage his own program on the altar of political expediency.

So, Governor Dewey, following the pattern of a lawyer preparing a case for trial, began immediately to lay the foundation for adequate legislation to curb discrimination in employment on account of race, creed, color or national origin.

Instead of recommending passage of the Wicks Bill, which most assuredly would not have been passed, the Governor asked the Legislature to pass a law to set up a 23-man Temporary Commission Against Discrimination to study the entire field of discrimination and to recommend legislation to correct same. He saw to it that Legislators of both major

The cause of real Democracy is advanced, and therefore the burdens of minorities will undoubtedly be a little lighter; the Empire State remains in the vanguard leading the nation to a better life, all because Governor Dewey had the courage to abide by his convictions.

parties, representatives of industry, labor and minority groups were included in the Commission. He saw to it that the the Commission was given adequate funds for its work and that it was not hampered in its investigations.

At the outset, Governor Dewey insisted that the Commission proceed along non-partisan lines. He was firm in his demand that the ultimate law should be both effective and workable. No one denies the Ives-Quinn Bill is fully competent in this respect. 3-24-45

In order to assure expert handling of the Bill in the Legislature, Assembly Majority Leader, Irving M. Ives, was named chairman of the Commission. In order to assure a strong but equitable law, former U.S. Attorney Charles H. Tuttle was chosen as counsel for the Commission.

In January, in his speech to the Legislature, the Governor urged passage of the Ives-Quinn Bill at this session. He remained in the thick of the fight throughout the time and his efforts were climaxed in a brilliant and historic ceremony last week, when he signed the Bill.

It took courage to do what Governor Dewey did last March when he refused to make a "play to the grandstand" by recommending the passage of a bill he knew couldn't win. For his honesty and steadfastness he lost the vote, but like Henry Clay, perhaps Governor Dewey would rather be right than President.

## Ives-Quinn Bill Study In The New York City Schools Under Discussion

The industrial relations department of the Urban League of Greater New York held a conference on Monday with Dr. John E. Wade Superintendent of Schools, to discuss the part schools can play in effectuating the purposes of the Ives-Quinn Law.

The committee proposed that the New York laws against discrimination be widely posted, that attractive pamphlet material be prepared and disseminated in the schools, and that the anti-discrimination laws be included as part of the social studies courses. 3-24-45







be continued and not ended with the war. The good, or the evil, that comes out of the legislation will depend largely upon the five commissioners Governor Dewey appoints to function on the State Commission Against Discrimination.

On the commissioners rests a heavy responsibility. They can either make or break the reputation of New York State. The commissioners should make every effort to carry out the intent of the law and must use every conceivable means at their disposal. Broad enough power is vested with the commission so that this should not be difficult. **3-17-45**

With the exception of possibly the chairman, however, there is no need for the commissioners to be members of the legal profession. Too many lawyers on the commission itself, we believe, would be fatal. Since the commission is authorized to formulate policies to effectuate the purpose of the legislation, an alert legal staff would be a necessary part of the body. But for the most part, the commissioners will have to be persons of tact, understanding and broad vision. They must be forthright and not compromising. They must realize that their actions will be very closely scrutinized by other States which have under consideration similar legislation, what legislatures in other States will do.

On the commission itself, therefore, rests a great responsibility. Governor Dewey knows that and must make his selections of the five commissioners with greater care, perhaps, than he has exercised in any other appointments. New York made news with the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill's passage. May it cause other States and our National Government to follow suit, and quickly.

## NEW ENGLAND N.Y. TIMES New Anti-Discrimination Bill in Bay State Weighed **3-25-45** By WILLIAM M. BLAIR

BOSTON, March 24—New England eyed with interest this week a draft of an anti-discrimination bill for Massachusetts which its supporters urged be substituted for the seven bills which have been discussed in considerable detail before a Massachusetts legislative committee.

The suggested draft is patterned closely after the Ives-Quinn measure, which was recently adopted by New York. The differences are so minor that it is considered to be the New York law adapted for Massachusetts.

The draft has the support of all proponents of the bills sent to the committee. It originated with the Massachusetts Committee for a Fair Employment Practice Law. This committee's primary idea was to get the best law possible for Massachusetts.

But an important consideration was the making of a law which would be uniform with other States. Since it is modeled after the New York law and since Massachusetts appears at this stage to be about to become the second State to adopt such legislation, it is believed that other States which may consider such measures will follow the lead to give uniformity to the major legislation.

Supporters of the legislation to make unlawful any discrimination in employment because of race, color, religious belief or national origin have urged the committee to report out a bill with teeth. Their main concern appears to be that Massachusetts might get an innocuous measure. Those who suggested the draft of a new bill this week are convinced that the New York law, with its definite penalties, comes closest to providing the ideal.

It is generally conceded that Massachusetts will adopt an anti-discrimination law in some form. Gov. Maurice J. Tobin has declared he believes in the theory of such legislation, but did not comment on its form.

**News Notes:** Maine's official tree is now the White Pine, with Gov. Horace A. Hildreth signing into law this week a bill to that effect. . . . Food production war-training courses continue to be popular among Vermont's rural residents. . . . Forty-six communities, representing all except one of the fourteen counties, have such courses in operation. . . . The New Hampshire House of Representatives has asked Mrs. Roosevelt to speak April 11.

# Ives-Quinn Bill Fights Race Hate Daily Worker N.Y. 3-1-45 And Pegler Takes It Personally Lad Who Testified for Ives Bill Talks for AFRO

By LOUIS F. EUDENZ

With unrestrained venom, **Poison Pen Pegler** on Tuesday called to all Ku Klux Klan outfits in New York to defeat the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill. That long-needed measure, bringing in the barest justice, the Hearstling declares to be a violation of the "privilege to hate collectively and selectively." We have heard those mouthings before. They were the jumping off place for Adolph Hitler in his leap to power and bloody misrule.

In the usual fascist fashion, Pegler caricatured this legislation for democracy into anti-democratic interpretations. He tried to damn it with absurdities and asininities, fictitiously holding up the horror of one religionist being forced to accept the ministrations of another. Through the cases he cited, he appealed to Christian Frontism and to the low sex-fictions employed against the Negro people. Nor did he rest until he rang in anti-Semitism and red-baiting.

To such appeals to prejudice and passion, in itself the best demonstration of the urgent need for such a law, he added the usual straw-men arguments raised against all progressive labor legislation. **3-1-45**

The Ives-Quinn law, he asserted without one shred of proof, "would encourage and protect incompetence, loafing and other misbehavior." Such is precisely the charge made frequently against the Wagner Act, and while that act has been in existence labor has produced as never before in our history. It's clear that, with discrimination curbed, morale would be lifted and production rise still higher. **3-1-45**

Pegler's offenses against decency and democracy are long and putrid. It was he who cheered on the leaders of the seditious anti-Negro strike in Philadelphia. So deeply were the people moved to anger against him for this anti-democratic act that Roy Howard was then compelled to let him go. The people will have to let their views be heard again. They will have to make it out of order in any union or people's organization for anyone to read the papers for which this fascist writes.

AFRO-AMERICAN  
By RICHARD DIER

Opponents of the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill met their strongest and most unexpected opposition February 21, when Paul Coburn, a 10-year-old white youngster and president of the Abraham Lincoln Carries On Club, spoke for two minutes in favor of passage of the legislation at a legislative hearing in Albany. **3-3-45**

"Some people favor education," he said, "but it might take ten or even fifty years. Our class believes you should legislate and educate." If a colored boy can't ride an elevator, how will he be able to get a job when he grows up?

In an exclusive AFRO interview in his home upon his return from Albany, Paul said that his speech got five minutes of applause. **3-3-45**

"The applause lasted longer than my talk, and Senator Wicks got up and said that if this is what the younger generation is, then we have nothing to fear for the future."

"They told me that it was the first time that a boy of my age ever spoke on such an important issue in Albany. I liked it very much, especially sitting on the lap of one of the Assemblymen before I spoke." **3-3-45**

Club to Help Fight Bias  
He explained that the Abraham Lincoln Carries On Club was formed two months ago to do something about racial discrimination after a colored boy in his class, James Gross, of 574 St. Nicholas Avenue, was jim-crowed when he went to visit the home of a white friend. The elevator man refused to take him up and he had to go up the back stairs.

The white boy, Peter Bronson, of 40 W. Seventy-seventh Street, who had invited James, felt very bad about it and the matter was taken up with his friend.

The club was formed and also an anti-discrimination committee, and letters of protest against the

incident were sent to Mayor LaGuardia, Walter Winchell, Gabriel Heatter, and other prominent persons.

Paul is president of the club and he went to Albany as its representative.

**Work Praised**  
"Since our club was formed, we have gotten many letters from people all over the country," Paul continued. "One was from a colored convict who praised our work. He said he was a victim of social and economic injustices, and he even offered to contribute to our cause. I think that's wonderful."

"I hope branches can be established in schools everywhere to fight discrimination."

He attends the Little Red Schoolhouse, a private progressive school in Greenwich Village, and his class is studying the problems of minority groups. There are several colored children on the anti-discrimination committee.

Paul's father, a lawyer, from whom his son inherits his progressive ideas, spoke to the AFRO about the solution of problems of minority groups. Talk was suddenly interrupted by Paul's amazing query:

"What about jim crow down South?"

Knowingly or otherwise, Paul had steered us back to where we began by one direct question. Yes, what about jim crow down South?



Paul Coburn



# Notables Express Delight At The Worker, N.Y. 3-11-45 Ives-Quinn Anti-Bias Bill

ment Practice Committee."

• **Henry Epstein**, prominent attorney, who represented various Jewish groups at the Albany hearings: 3-11-45

"Passage of the Ives-Quinn bill was a great victory for democracy."

• **Louis Hollander**, president, and **Harold Garno**, secretary-treasurer, CIO Industrial Union Council:

"We hail it as a great triumph for democracy on the home front and a milestone in the history of social legislation of New York state. It is certain to serve as a model for other states. We forecast the passage of similar legislation in other progressive states. We especially pay tribute to Assemblyman **Irving Ives** for his uncompromising fight for this legislation."

• **Joseph Fountain**, industrial relations director, Sperry Gyroscope:

"We have many Negro employees at Sperry's. As a matter of fact, we are leaders in the field of employment of Negro skilled workers. Certainly we didn't need this very fine law to show us what to do. Let me remind you also that **Thomas A. Mergan**, president of the Sperry Corp., is chairman of the 1945 campaign to raise \$1,500,000 for 32 private Negro colleges." 3-11-45

• **Thelma Dale**, executive secretary, National Negro Congress:

"This first of the State Fair Employment Practice Committee laws to be passed should give courage and fortitude to progressive forces seeking passage of similar measures elsewhere in the United States. It will hasten the fight to secure the immediate enactment of the federal FEPC. The National Negro Congress urges all organizations which fought for the state bill to make as effective a demonstration in Washington when the FEPC comes up for hearing in the Senate."

• **Charles A. Collins**, executive secretary, Negro Labor Victory Committee:

"New York state has the honor of leading the rest of the nation in the people's fight to stamp out discrimination in the United States. But this honor must be shared with the rest of the nation, and that can be done quickly and effectively by passage of the bill for a permanent federal Fair Employ-

• **Daisy George**, business agent, Hotel and Club Employees Union, Local 6, AFL: 3-11-45

"This historic bill shows the way to other like-minded states to act.

Economic democracy for workers of all races, creeds and colors is guaranteed by passage of this law. It came as a mandate from the people of this state, based on the previous Executive Order of the President of the United States. It will fortify the non-discrimination policy of my own union."

## What Ives-Quinn Bill Provides

1. Discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin is declared a violation of a civil right, barred by the State Constitution.
2. A five-man commission is set up, with an annual salary of \$10,000 per member. Each member serves five years, with terms ending on an annual rotation basis.
3. The commission is empowered to set up community advisory and education councils to promote harmony and to combat prejudice.
4. It is also empowered to receive complaints from individuals or their attorneys on discrimination in employment, to investigate, to institute conciliation procedure if it finds the complaint justified, and, if conciliation does not work, to order the offending firm to hire or promote the employee discriminated against. If the commission order is ignored, it can get an enforcing order from the civil courts.
5. It has similar powers in relation to trade unions and employment agencies.
6. Persons against whom orders are issued can go to the courts. If the courts rule against them, the commission order is effective.

Any interference with the work of the commission or refusal to execute its orders is a misdemeanor, punishable by \$500 fine or a year in jail or both.

## DEWEY SIGNS BIAS BILL

New York Age  
History Made When State  
Enacts First Bill To  
Penalize Job Bias

1-20-45  
ALBANY, N. Y.—The first anti-discrimination law in the United States, making racial or religious discrimination punishable by im-

prisonment, became law Monday when Governor **Thomas E. Dewey** signed the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill.

Governor Dewey signed the historic measure in the Governor's Room in the Capitol in the presence of more than 200 persons who witnessed the event. The demand for sovenies was so great that Governor Dewey used twenty-two pens in writing "approved." **Thomas E. Dewey** law went into effect July 1st. The March 12, 1945. Until he reached the date, he used one pen for each letter and then the last two pens took care of the date.

At the close of the bill-signing ceremony, the first souvenir pens went to the legislative sponsors,

proud that I am able by approval

ing this bill to make it law." "If business or industrial employment is denied to any person of its non-political character. And it can be clearly established have been deeply gratified by that a person was rejected solely the universal support accorded it on the grounds of prejudice . . . by religious and civic groups he will be able through the commission to receive an impartial hearing and work out his problem by the orderly process of a civilized society," said Mr. Turner.

The Commission will not be entering an entirely untouched field, for the State War Council since 1942 had maintained a Committee Against Discrimination in war industries which had already done successful work against job bias, and whose work ended with the setting up of this new agency. Three of the five Commissioners of the new commission, but that will work from the N. Y. City office. These are **Elmer Carter**, **Mrs. Leopold K. Simon**, and **Edward W. Edwards**. The Albany office will be under Commission member **Julian J. Reiss**.

After the bill had been signed, Governor Dewey told reporters that already several hundred persons have applied for membership in the new commission, but that no appointments would be announced until possibly late in June.

The new law, which goes into effect on July 1, sets up a commission of five members to be appointed by the Governor, and directs it to eliminate discrimination in employment by conciliation, persuasion and mediation where possible, but authorizes it to issue "cease and desist" orders when the other means fail. Violation of these orders as a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 or imprisonment for one year, or both. Findings of the commission are subject to court review.

The commissioners will be paid \$10,000 a year and will also work to promote better relations between population groups through educational and community agencies.

## Jobs Law In Force

OR THE first time in the history of the state there was established legal protection for Negroes, Jews, foreign-born, and members of other minority groups against job discrimination, as the Ives-Quinn law went into effect July 1st. The Commission Against Discrimination opened its N. Y. C. offices at 124 E 28 st, Monday, with a pledge from Chairman **Henry C. Turner**, that five Commission members were determined to enforce the law of New York state establishing fair job practices for

7-7K45



# Dewey's Race Bias Body Disappointing

Appointments Fall Short of Mark, Civic Leaders Feel

No hosannas today greeted Gov. Dewey's long-awaited appointments to the five-member New York State Commission Against Discrimination set up under the Ives-Quinn Law which outlaws discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin.

While there was no criticism of any of the five members as such, there was considerable disappointment that Dewey had not come forth with a more impressive list.

Whatever the State Commission accomplishes is almost certain to be regarded as an indication of the effectiveness of a national FEPC (Fair Employment Practice Committee) as urged by President Truman.

## Appointees

These are Gov. Dewey's appointees, who will receive \$10,000 a year compensation.

Henry C. Turner, former president of the New York City Board of Education and a Masonic leader, chairman.

Elmer A. Carter, of New York, member of the board of directors of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, also of the State War Council and Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board, who is generally regarded as a conservative.

Edward A. Edwards, of Albany, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation of Labor.

Julian J. Reiss, of Lake Placid, a prominent business man.

Mrs. Leopold Simon, of New York, a member of the State Workmen's Compensation Board. She was one of the members of the State Committee on Discrimination who stayed on when eight other members resigned in protest against Dewey's failure to push two anti-discrimination bills prepared by the Committee.

Under the law, the Commission is given unprecedented rights to investigate charges of discrimination by employers, who, if found guilty, are liable to a fine of \$500, a year in prison, or both.

Effective July 1

The new law, which goes into effect July 1, was the result of a strong fight by representative social and patriotic organizations all over the State against the opposition of industrial groups and reactionaries.

Dewey declared yesterday, after announcing his appointments, that the main job of the commission will lie in the field of education. He said that both Turner and Carter, as educators, realize that education will be a primary consideration of the group.

"The State," said Dewey, "is fortunate in procuring the services of this distinguished group to carry out the work of assuring equality of opportunity for employment in New York State."

After the first meeting of the commission in the Governor's office, Turner was asked by reporters to comment on the fact that the punitive features of the Ives-Quinn Law had been one of the points most bitterly fought by its opponents. He replied that education will take precedence before the punitive provisions.

In New York, a spokesman for the State CIO said he would wait until a detailed analysis of the records of the new commission's members could be made before commenting on the appointments but indicated that leaders of the State CIO did not regard most of the appointments with any favor.

Domestic Court Justice Justine Wise Polier, a member of the executive board of the Citizens City-wide Committee on Harlem said:

## Effective Action Needed

"The announcement of the commission to administer the Ives-Quinn Law comes as a disappointing anti-climax to the battle by the people of New York State for legislation against discrimination in employment."

"Many who had been deeply disturbed by the Governor's failure to support this legislation in 1944 had hoped that he had come to recognize its significance during the past legislative session when the churches, labor and all progressive groups were united in demanding its enactment. Constructive social engineering by the Administrators of this law is essential if it is to be translated into effective

action.

"The task calls for men of the highest caliber and for men committed by their past records to the ideal of equal opportunity for all men regardless of race, color or national origin. The membership of the commission does not fulfill these requirements. One can only hope that the great task ahead may somehow inspire the Commission to achievement beyond one's fondest expectations."

## Wait and See

Dr. Channing Tobias, YMCA leader and one of those who resigned from the Governor's Committee on Discrimination in March, 1944, said he would "wait to see what the Commission does—and rate it on its work."

Louis S. Weiss, another 1944 resignee, and a member of the Citizens City-wide Committee on Harlem, declared:

"The hopes of those who advocated the enactment of the Ives-Quinn Law have been disappointed. The appointments just announced fall short of the high standards which the Governor had been expected to adopt. Only one of the appointees can be said to be distinguished in the field of race relations."

"New York led the Nation in the enactment of this type of legislation: it will now find it difficult to maintain its leadership."

Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack (D, Man.), said he felt it "would be unfair for me to make any comment. I'll wait and see how they handle their cases."

## STATE ANTI-BIAS COMMISSION BEGINS ITS WORK THIS WEEK

Agency Is to Integrate Minority Groups Into Economic Life, Promote Tolerance

By LEO EGAN

Integration of minority groups, particularly Negroes, into all phases of economic activity is the gigantic task facing the New York State Anti-Discrimination Commission under the Ives-Quinn law, which goes into effect July 1. The commission, consisting of five members, begins its assignment officially today with the opening of offices in New York City, Albany and Buffalo.

It is likely that the commission's first major problem will be to end discrimination based on race, religion or national origin in "up-

grading," i. e., the making of promotions. If the experience of the Anti-Discrimination Committee of the State War Council, whose existence ended yesterday, is any criterion, such discrimination is both more prevalent and more difficult to combat than is discrimination in the hiring of employees.

## Has Broad Powers

The new commission, under the statute enacted at the recent session of the Legislature, has broad powers to break down this barrier as well as to punish refusal to hire because of race, religion or national origin. If it is the employer who balks at hiring or up-grading, the commission may invoke a number of sanctions against him. It can also proceed against an employment agency or a union, if the labor organization is blocking hiring or promotion, or fellow-employees, if their attitude is responsible for the discrimination.

Refusal to comply with a commission order can be treated as a contempt of court after proper judicial procedure. It can also be made the basis for criminal prosecution involving a possible fine of \$500 or imprisonment for a year, or both for each offense.

Before the commission can invoke any of the sanctions at its disposal, however, it must attempt to eliminate through conciliation, mediation and other persuasive means the cause for any grievance it finds to be justified. Action can be taken only on the basis of individual complaints from a victim of discriminatory practice or his

attorney. It may not be based on a broad general allegation without specific complainants. This is intended to protect employers against unwarranted harassment.

Without waiting for the new law to become effective, many employers have voluntarily undertaken to correct employment and personnel practices that might run counter to the law. Individually and through trade and industry associations they have been seeking advisory rulings from the expiring committee, which lacked the broad authority of the new

commission and which had jurisdiction only of plants engaged in war work.

According to Charles Berkley, executive director of the committee, the prospects for voluntary compliance by the vast majority of those affected is good.

Besides charging the commission with the duty of eliminating discriminatory employment practices, the Ives-Quinn law also assigns it the task of actively promoting tolerance for minority groups and a better appreciation of the contributions of such groups to American society through educational and community programs.

## Commission Personnel

In selecting the members of the Commission, Governor Dewey indicated that he wanted this second part of the law to receive equal attention with the first. Henry C. Turner, Commission Chairman, is a former president of the New York City Board of Education. Elmer K. Carter, Negro member, is editor of the publication of the National Urban League. Mrs. Leopold K. Simon, the female member, was a leader in formulating and sponsoring community cooperation programs in the Women's City Club. The other two members are Julian Weiss, head of a large textile firm, and Edward W. Edwards, legislative representative of the State Federation of Labor.

Operation of the new law will be closely watched outside of New York because of the resistance being encountered in the enactment of a similar law on a national scale and because other States have minority problems as acute and tense as New York's.



# N. Y. City Council Shows Way Against Jimcrow

By HARRY RAYMOND

The New York City Council, which has often been criticized for moving slowly on urgent social legislation, has given responsible leadership in recent days to the fight to outlaw the various evil forms of discrimination still practiced in our city. The Council has power to enact laws eliminating the anti-Jewish because of race, creed or color. And the Council appears to be in no mood to compromise on this question.

With the adoption by unanimous vote of Councilman Benjamin J. Davis's resolution calling on the State Legislature to enact the Ives-Quinn law, the Council set aside partisan political differences and launched into a vigorous drive to stamp out Jimcrow wherever it exists in the nation's largest city.

## UNITY RESOLUTION

It is significant that the Davis resolution came to the floor not as a partisan measure, but as a resolution of three political groups. It carried the signatures of six Democrats, two Republicans and one Communist, the complete membership of the Committee on State Legislation.

But the Council has clearly indicated it will not stop with this legislation and the earlier Isaacs-Davis Bill barring racial discrimination of tenants in privately-owned tax exempt housing developments. A legislative program attacking all the various subtle forms of Jimcrow and anti-Semitism is taking very definite form in the Council committees.

## MAY CALL FOR PROBE

The Rules Committee, under chairmanship of Councilman Walter R. Hart, Brooklyn Democrat, is now studying a resolution by Councilmen Anthony DiGiovanna and Samuel DiFalco, Democrats from Brooklyn and Manhattan respectively, to launch a thorough investigation into charges that city medical colleges have set up special quotas to discriminate against Jewish students.

This resolution, which appears to have the backing of the majority of councilmen, would set up a special committee to take testimony on college anti-Semitism and to recommend legislation to outlaw it.

Inasmuch as the chief dental colleges are either city supported or

will give full-hearted endorsement to its activities in its efforts to give benefits of democracy to all.

NEW YORK, N. Y.  
POST

Cir. D. 182,292

JUN 27 1945



## A World To Live In

On Making the  
Ives-Quinn Law Work

By Dorothy Norman

Speaking before a meeting of social agencies, the executive vice-president of the Electronic Corporation of America has just presented a plan to help make the Ives-Quinn law work:

(This is the law that was designed to wipe out discrimination in employment in New York State. It goes into effect the first of this month). Businessmen

"If we can bring Negro girls into offices and stores then it will be a relatively easy matter for the Negro to find his place in other lines of work."

"I think it would be wise to begin at the place where it would do the most good, and the place, incidentally, where the State would have the easiest opportunity to enforce the law. I am thinking of two places in particular, the public utility companies and the department stores."

"The public utilities are large employers of labor in our State. They are subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission. Their employees have a high degree of security; their workers bear the closest relationship to the civil service employee. I believe that the public utility companies of New York State would be pleased to cooperate in a program of this kind. I believe that they have the kind of skilled management and able personnel direction which can handle the problem in a dignified and more or less matter of fact way, and, I believe that if they are given a chance to discuss quietly the planning of their program, they will be able to do this without irritation or difficulties."

"The department stores think they have a more difficult problem. But fortunately the owners of department stores are, by and large, a liberal and progressive group of businessmen. It

"Those of you who have been to Washington during the war are familiar with the fact that an increasing number of Negroes are now being employed as white-collar workers in the government services. I believe that the key

may be that in the past some of them have felt that the public was not as liberal in its attitude on race questions as they are. But now that we have the law and it can be enforced in every store at the same time, no department store need feel that it will suffer from the ignorance of the minority. All stores should leap at the chance to correct this evil.

"I think it is most urgent that we act fairly quickly on the anti-discrimination question. I say this because I know that there are some six million jobs directly tied to the war effort. As cutbacks occur the old frictions and competition among the workers will tend to rise to the surface again.

"Of course we hope that the 60 million jobs our late President pledged will be found. If they are, the Negro workers and other minority groups, who are usually the first to be fired, will keep their jobs, will pile up seniority and have the security and tenure which will itself help wipe out discrimination and unemployment. But if there is a severe recession, some people are going to lose out and I am afraid they are bound to be those with the shortest working history. This means that the burden will be carried by those who have always had the hardest time finding jobs."

"Business," he concludes, "will have to play it straight, abide by the spirit as well as the letter of the law. The Ives-Quinn law, fully enforced, can be the best form of education."

"It may become fashionable to avoid discrimination. That would be a fine way to have this problem wither away."

It would indeed



SHARKEY



DAVIS

ed the spotlight on a practice of assigning Negro firemen to special Jimcrow beds in firehouses. Further action of the Council was not necessary. The evil practice was wiped out by the Mayor when testimony at the hearing was brought to his attention.

The Council has started to make a good record in the field of anti-Jimcrow legislation. And the people



# New York FEPC Receives 13 Discrimination Cases

*Baltimore, Md.*  
*Afro-American*  
NEW YORK — Thirteen complaints from individuals charging job discrimination and twice that many requests from employers seeking information about the Ives-Quinn law which went into force July 1, have been received by the State Commission Against Discrimination.

"We have been functioning even though we just moved into our offices July 2, Henry C. Turner, chairman, told the AFRO in an exclusive interview this week at the commission's offices, 124 E. 28th St.

*7-21-45*  
Has Staff of 55  
Tall and distinguished-looking, Mr. Turner explained that the present program called for a staff of 55 employees in the state, the greater proportion of which will work in that building.

In addition to Turner, there are four other commissioners: Elmer A. Carter, a director of the NAACP; Edward W. Edwards, former secretary of the State Federation of Labor, AFL; Mrs. Leopold K. Simon, a former member of the State Workmen's Compensation Commission, and Julian J. Reiss, in charge of the commission's Albany office.

Mr. Carter is the only colored member.

Complainants may call in persons and all complaints must be signed and filed within 90 days of the alleged act of discrimination. A good many of the requests for advice from employers and employment agencies so far, have been on the types of application forms that must now be used.

"Some have been borderline cases," Mr. Turner continued, "such as those asking a prospective employee his national origin or where his parents were born. Now that is against the law.

**Has Two Divisions**  
"The function of the commission can be divided into two major divisions: First, is the general education campaign which includes public relations and research. This function is to try to educate the community to the proper attitude to those prohibited types of discrimination in employment.

"This will be done through the medium of regional, state-wide, local advisory councils to be set up by the Commission. Council members will be selected, and work on a voluntary basis.

"Through these councils, we hope to make contacts with business in areas which will directly open the door to the commission, and will afford opportunities of good-will among groups. Hereto-

fore, a man could deny the educational process and keep his prejudices.

*7-21-45*  
"By including the enforcement provisions in this law, employers are now face to face with the situation and now have to study the integration of minority groups; and determine how to do it.

**Will Probe Case**  
"The second function of the Commission," Mr. Turner pointed out, "is the rectification of cases where discrimination has been practiced. The complaints will be investigated, and every reason will be made to determine their validity; and a settlement will be made."

If every effort for adjustment fails, they would be brought before the commission for a formal hearing. The commission has the right to subpoena individuals and records, and will determine at its hearing whether to dismiss the case or issue an order to the respondent to cease the discrimination practices.

If the respondent fails to obey the order, the commission will apply for an order directing the respondent to appear in court where the case evidence as found by it will be shown. Either party in the case has the right to appeal the court decision.

"Where the commission comes in," Mr. Turner explains, "is to demonstrate to employers that it is practicable to employ without regard as to race, creed, color, or national origin... that integrated employment has worked... that business doing so has survived... and that good will has been made because of it."

## The AFRO Visits Elmer Carter

*Afro-American*  
*Baltimore, Md.*  
He Helps Run New York State's Own FEPC

**By MICHAEL CARTER**  
NEW YORK—Elmer Carter, the sole colored commissioner on New York State's Committee Against Discrimination—this State's own FEPC—got his experience in industrial placement of colored workers during 20 years' work for the Urban League, his editorship of Opportunity Magazine, and a great deal of volunteer work on various State employment committees.

Now he earns \$10,000 a year as a commissioner and holds one of the most important appointive posts in the State.

With the gradual cessation of war industry in this State, his job

will become even more important.

**Lesson to Congress**  
Mr. Carter thinks that all minority peoples in the country owe a debt of gratitude to the colored people who pressed for the enactment of fair employment legislation.

The presence of a State-operated FEPC is also a good "object lesson to Congress on the value and workability of a national law protecting the rights of minority peoples to earn decent livings on jobs for which they are best suited," he said.

*8-8-45*  
**Dangers Cited**  
The presence of a State FEPC is not without some dangerous overtones.

"Both sides," Mr. Carter said, "have now been stimulated to further action. Those who despaired of its enactment are now encouraged to continue their efforts in this and other directions, but those who opposed it are also stimulated to work even more vigorously against it on a national level."

It's just a toss-up as to which side will ultimately win, he thinks.

**N.J. Law Weak**  
Twenty-three other States experimented with employment bills, patterned after New York's, but only in New Jersey has such a law been enacted. There the employment committee operates under the board of education and has the power of a school teacher.

This new commissioner things the measure passed in New York as a result of a combination of factors that may or may not be present in other States.

**Minorities for Bill**  
"The leaders of Polish groups in Buffalo, Italians in Rochester and Jews in New York City were behind the bill. Except for the Jews, it is doubtful that the rank

State," Mr. Carter declared. "We also had the passionate efforts of State Senators Ives and Quinn who were tremendously eager to put their bill on the State law books."

In response to the question, "Which race did most for the passage of the law?" Mr. Carter said:

"I can't answer that. Years ago when civil rights legislation was under discussion here, most of the talk was done by colored people, but the Jews were most insistent. Their strength was not apparent—but it was felt."

The commissioner does not expect the development of State FEPC's south of the Potomac, "unless the continued industrialization of the South makes such legislation necessary."

**Is Law Constitutional?**

Although the FEPC law is part of this State's legal structure, the constitutionality of the measure has never been tested.

Some recalcitrant employer, appealing a decision from the commission may—in time—take the case to the Supreme Court.

Although Mr. Carter feels that such action would only prove the constitutionality of the law, it is worth remembering that the National Recovery Act was killed by such tactics.

**Organization Incomplete**

As yet, the commission is not fully staffed and has not completed its organization for carrying on work. The only set procedure so far is the manner in which complaints are filed.

At first glance the machinery of the committee seems to operate under bandages of red tape. Mr. Carter, however, says this is not so, but that the committee is

and file of the other minorities "streamlined" and democratic. In any case, the State FEPC, though law, has not reached the stature or traditional acceptance accorded other similar laws. Great care is made to see that the employer is not falsely accused. Extended efforts will be made to persuade the employer to "cease and desist" undemocratic employment methods before a court showdown is reached.

**How Committee Works**  
The steps in making a complaint and action upon it are many: 1. The aggrieved employee submits a notarized account of his charges to the commission. 2. The account is studied by the chairman of the committee

who assigns it—if accepted—to a commissioner.

3. The actual detective work to establish the truth of the charges is made by a \$3,000-a-year investigator.
4. The report of the investigation is submitted to the commissioner and ultimately to the chairman of the board.
5. If the charges seem to be true, the commissioner will attempt to persuade the employer that he is sinning and ought to stop.

**Bottleneck Possible**

If the employer refuses to listen, then a hearing will be held. It appears that a serious bottleneck could develop on this level.

One of the five commissioners is delegated to represent the aggrieved worker before a board composed of the chairman and two other committeemen.

The employer may represent himself or secure counsel. This leaves only one other commissioner to carry on the work and only one case can be heard at a time.

If the complaint of the employee is upheld, the employer can be ordered to reinstate him with retroactive pay. The employer could appeal this decision to a court of law. However, similar procedures are established facts in other labor disputes.

**Compliance Expected**

"We believe that the larger employers, like Metropolitan Life, will accept the rulings of the board. But it doesn't mean that overnight you can change a 300-year-old policy.

The opposition to this bill has been powerful and those forces are not asleep. The National Association of Manufacturers, Merwin K. Hart's National Economic Committee and other groups are anxious to oppose the bill again. Yet, it is now part of the State law and it will remain so."

**Personal Observations**

Elmer Carter is a Gloversville New Yorker who graduated from Harvard University, but had to go to Texas to get a job teaching.

I consider this significant because it could mean that he has no illusions about the extent of race freedom here.

**Accomplishments in NY**

From other sources I learned that he had "placed more professional colored people in the NY Unemployment Insurance and Employment offices than any other single person." Some of the people he placed are accountants, economists, and office managers.

He broke up a jim-crow State employment office in Harlem and had the employees—supervisors, workers, etc.—shifted to similar positions elsewhere.

Some Civil Service workers feel that the State Insurance and Employment offices offered colored

people their best opportunities here at one time because of Mr. Carter's efforts. Some other people think that Governor Dewey was ill advised in appointing Mr. Carter because he is not a Republican, but to most people the appointment was considered well made.



# Economic Equality Sought by North Carolina Gov.

*Agro-American*  
*Baltimore, Md.*

## Pledges His Office to Make Real State Constitutional Guarantee of Rights

DURHAM, N.C. — A plea for economic equality was voiced last week by North Carolina's Gov. R. Gregg Cherry, as principal speaker at the second annual conference on race relations here.

"If any citizen of North Carolina, or of the nation, is interfered with in earning his living on account of his race or color, or finds that he is discriminated against in getting or holding employment, then he has a deep and well-founded complaint against society and must be listened to.

### Part of American Creed

"For it is a part of the American creed that a man ought to be able to rise according to his merits and competence, and that encouragement and a wide open road must go to ability and character."

The chief executive pledged that he would use his office to make real the State's constitution guaranteeing equality to all citizens.

President James E. Shepard of North Carolina College and his coordinator, Dr. N. C. Newbold, director of colored education in the State Department of Public Instruction, conducted the three-day conference.

### Face Bitter Competition

The bitter competition that colored workers will face in the post-war period, was emphasized by Julius A. Thomas, director, Department of Industrial Relations, National Urban League.

"The test of the democracy for which they fought will be found when the colored veterans return," he said.

Other speakers who participated in the discussions were:

Dr. Mabel C. Carney, Columbia University; Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey, Rowan County, N.C.; T. E. Brown, Raleigh; C. Curt Gill Jr., Elizabethtown, N.C.;

Howard Colvin, Washington, D.C.; Dr. D. G. Garland, Charlotte, N.C.; E. L. Sandefur, Winston-Salem; E. Gail Barker, Durham; M. F. Johnson, Durham;

G. W. Cox, Durham; Isador B. Oglesby, Durham; M. E. Newsome, Durham; R. W. Hudgens, Washington, D.C.; S. B. Simmons, Greensboro; T. A. Hamme, Oxford, N.C.;

Elmer A. Carter, New York; Mrs. Inez B. Jones, Raleigh; Dr. L. E. McCauley, Raleigh; Dr. Sanford R. Winston, Raleigh; S. J. Mahaffey, Durham; the Rev. Allyn P. Robinson, Raleigh;

Rt. Rev. Edwin A. Penick, Raleigh; the Rev. E. C. Lawrence, Raleigh; Dr. M. M. Fisher, Durham; Dr. Stanley C. Harrel, Durham; Dr. Albert L. Turner, Durham; C. C. Spaulding, Durham;

F. D. Bluford, Greensboro; Vance E. Swift, Raleigh; Clarence L. Beddingfield, Raleigh; G. H. Ferguson, Raleigh; S. E. Duncan, Reidsville.

N.C.; J. B. MacRae, Fayetteville; J. C. Hubbard, Durham; W. J. Kennedy, Durham; Dr. Edgar T. Thompson, Raleigh; Dr. Roy M. Brown, Chapel Hill, N.C.;

Phillips Russel, Chapel Hill; J. H. Wheeler, Durham; Dr. J. Henry Carpenter, New York; and Dr. J. H. Taylor, Durham.

7-28-45



# Whites Force Plant to Fire Colored Window Washer

3-24-45  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Prejudice

at the Victor Electric Products Inc., runs so strong that it was impossible for a colored window washer to complete his job because whites objected to his presence.

The story was revealed by William T. McKnight, FEPC regional director, in committee hearings here Saturday.

A colored window washer was hired several months ago at the company and began his work by washing the outside of the windows at the firm. Everything was all right as long as he worked on the outside, but when he went inside to complete the washing of the windows, trouble ensued.

## Walkout Threatened

White workers complained to the company management that the man was working "inside the shop" which was against the rules of the International Brotherhood Electrical Workers B1264 (AFL), and that union members planned to walk out if he was not dismissed.

The union has a contract with the company which bears a clause forbidding the hiring of colored persons within the plant.

Workers take immediate action to settle grievances on job discrimination.

"Negro workers at the Chevrolet Motor corp. in Toledo are still being denied upgrading by management," the resolution charged. "The same conditions exist in the Champion Spark Plug co., the Auto-Lite co., and many other plants."

Also approved was a resolution to the British Embassy protesting the recent arrest of 10 strikers of the Nigerian labor movement, and the threatened persecution of Nnamdi Azikiwe, Nigerian publisher.

# Negro and white workers denounce Toledo racism

TOLEDO, O. — Three hundred Negro and white workers met recently in vigorous protest against the discriminatory policies of several Toledo corporations, it was reported today by the union committee of the Mass Movement League, a Negro organization, which called the meeting.

The NAACP, the NML, the Ministerial Alliance, and the CIO Fact Finding committee jointly sponsored the meeting, with Emmett Wheaton, chairman of the CIO committee and a fighter for Negro rights, presiding. John Holly, Cleveland president and founder of the Future Outlook League, was principal speaker on the subject "Negro Labor at the Crossroads."

All speakers called for strengthening unions by abolishing discrimination, and urged Negro workers to take a more active part in union affairs. A resolution was then passed demanding that the United Auto

Los Angeles Tribune 8-13-45  
(California)



# 'White Americans Only,' Toledo UAW Head's Rule

*The Daily Worker New York, New York*  
By ABNER W. BERRY 9-10-45

TOLEDO, O., Sept. 9.—"My staff is reserved for American white men!" This statement, which would be expected from Bilbo, came from Richard Gosser, regional director of Region 2-B, UAW. It was Gosser's answer to a questioner at a mass meeting held here who wanted to know why there were no Negroes on the regional staff of the union.

We have already reported on Gosser's anti-Negro activities, but these anti-Negro practices are only a part of a general anti-democratic pattern. Gosser has fastened a fascist-like dictatorship onto the organized auto workers here.

His control is made easier through maintaining Local 12, UAW, as an amalgamated local comprising some 70 shops and close to 40,000 workers. The several thousand workers in Electric Autolite are fighting for a separate local in order to escape the dictatorship and breathe some democratic air. However, in order to do so the shop unit members will have to win a majority of the local members who are scattered through the city.

Once when a member of the Autolite unit vigorously sought the floor to make a motion he was ruled out of order and removed from the hall.

Toledo's unions have a tradition of progressivism and militancy. That tradition is being smothered today by a Gosser clique augmented by a system of inner-union "storm troopers" who can make it pretty unsafe for those who think that the union hall is the place to speak out.

## UNION WEAKENED

This dictatorship has forced the labor movement into a position of political impotence; it has weakened it for tackling the tasks of reconversion. Lucas County, in which Toledo is located, went to Dewey in the last Presidential elections by 2,500 votes. And one-third of the county's population is in the labor movement, which makes it one of the most solidly organized regions in the country.

While Dewey carried the county, the Negro yards here went solidly for the CIO-backed ticket. Not a single Negro precinct went for Dewey. Negro observers pointed out, however, that there were fewer progressive votes in the last elections than in the preceding race. This falling off of progressive votes

in the Negro community is attributed to the bad Negro-labor relations fostered by Gosser.

James B. Simmons, Jr., local Negro insurance man and leader of the militant, pro-labor Mass Movement League, was somewhat bitter when he spoke to me about his experiences with Gosser. "He (Gosser) has done absolutely nothing to maintain the unity of the Negroes and labor," he said.

Mr. Simmons and his group had conducted a successful campaign to place Negroes as operators in the local transportation system. "There are now eight or 10 men working," he told me, "and there was no friction at all between Negroes and whites." When I asked what unions and white groups had aided him, he said that the most aid from the whites came from the YWCA.

"Incidentally," he said, "this is the only large organization which has completely abolished the color line in its local activities. They have been fine." He knew of a few progressives in the local CIO. "But they are red-baited. Why I've been red-baited, too, for standing up for what was right."

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL

As a candidate for City Council in the coming elections Mr. Simmons is running on a pro-labor, progressive platform. He hopes to get the indorsement of PAC but is doubtful due to the influence of Gosser in that organization. If he loses the election only a reactionary can win. He is the only Negro candidate and the only clearcut progressive.

"Despite everything that has happened," he pointed out, "we insist that Negroes join and stay in the organized labor movement."

A talk with Warren V. Grissom, secretary of the Toledo Urban League, confirmed some of what Mr. Simmons had said. Mr. Grissom thought that the labor movement

had not "sold its white members a false bill of goods," nor had it developed an all-out educational program for all its members.

A union engaged in a fight for elementary union democracy is not

—cannot be oriented for the fight to get a democratic reconversion program. Nor can the labor movement exert its entire strength when it gives its Negro workers from it. Its political influence and strength in the people's struggle is weakened by failure to keep welded the Negro-labor coalition. The employers are sure to take advantage of this condition.

Meantime out on Winthrop St. and Ashland Ave. in a rambling office building sits Richard Gosser—"King Richard of Winthrop St."—temporarily in control of a vast domain. Peace has shrunk the domain somewhat, but it is still large. Part of the answer to the question, "How long can the 'king' retain control?" lies with the International Executive Board. But mostly it rests with the tens of thousand of members and officers of Local 12 who want a clean, militant union fighting for a people's democratic program.



# NAACP Probes

## Firing of Welder

PHILADELPHIA

The local office of the NAACP this week began an investigation of the dismissal of Mrs. Rebecca Hare, 1921 N. 13th St., from the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where she had been employed as a welder for 17 months. **7-21-45**

Mrs. Hare told the NAACP that she asked for time off during the recent illness of her brother, but that in order to get it, she had to sign a resignation slip. She said that she was told that she could not get a vacation or leave.

### Denied 2nd Application

After her absence from work, Mrs. Hare said she reported to the Navy Yard for reinstatement. She was refused her job, and not allowed to fill out another application.

The NAACP has asked Admiral M. F. Draemel, commandant of the Navy Yard, to explain the dismissal. A spokesman for the organization said, "This looks like one of the well planned techniques for obtaining voluntary dismissals of unwary colored employees."

## PTC Still Nixes

## Colored Girls

## As Trainwomen

PHILADELPHIA

Despite the Philadelphia Transportation Company's urgent pleas for women workers colored women are still on their unapproved list. **8-4-45**

This was brought out Tuesday when two women, Mrs. Ruth Nottage Ross and her sister, Mrs. Grayce N. Cramer, called at the employment service office located on the third floor of the Mitten Building at Broad and Locust streets.

On August 4, 1944, they had filed applications for positions as trainwomen and, according to Mrs. Ross, were told that although the PTC had not yet made any provisions for hiring colored women, a notice should reach them in a short while.

When they called back, Tuesday, almost a year later, Mrs. Ross said, they were interviewed first by a Mrs. Vivian Craven, who told them that their qualifications were of the best

and passed them on to Mrs. Wood, superintendent of the female employment division.

There they found that although they did measure up to PTC standards, they were not employable because Mrs. Wood had not received the "go ahead" signal from Dr. Mitten.

When questioned further, she explained, vaguely, that there was a lack of proper facilities. This term she refused to define.

Upon a second visit by the duo, they were refused admittance to the offices.

A PTC spokesman denied that a lack of toilet facilities was intended and reiterated that it was not yet a part of the company's policy to hire colored women for positions as trainwomen. **8-4-45**

Mrs. Ross, a divorcee with two children, lives at 2213 West Berks street, while her sister resides at 2425 north 19th street.

## Philly Transit

## Still Will Not

## Employ Negroes

PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia Transportation Company, where the anti-Negro strike started last summer, still won't hire Negroes. This time it is women. **8-4-45**

Negro motormen and conductors have been operating street cars without trouble ever since the President sent in troops last August to enforce the FEPC ruling. But manpower is still short, and the company has been hiring many women as conductors and operators. They have printed signs on the sides of buses, street canvassers have urged women to come to work for the PTA, but, although the campaign has not produced enough workers, the company still refuses to hire Negro women operators, insisting that they do not have proper facilities for training Negro women. This was explained to mean that they didn't have separate toilets and wash rooms for Negro women. **8-11-45**

The two Negro women turned down last week were Grayce N. Cramer and Ruth Ross, both of Philadelphia. They spoke to Mrs. E. J. Woods, personnel officer for

## Pennsylvania

the Transit Company. Prodigal Son Wood, superintendent of the female employment division, who has been conducting a picture campaign against job discrimination in Philadelphia, accompanied them.

## Veterans Seek Franchise

PHILADELPHIA

## As Whites Draw "Line"

By HENRY McCRARY, Jr.

Steadfastly maintaining that the heads of the GI Taxi Cab Association are set on establishing a "lily white organization," 13 Negro veterans of World War II, headed by Wilmont Flowers and Irving Collier, both of 2114 Catherine street, recently banded into a separate group known as the Veterans Taxi Cab Association and have filed application for franchises with the Public Utilities Commission.

The move on the part of the Flowers, Collier and their associates was the result of refusal of the GI Taxi Cab Association to include Negro veterans in their outfit.

The GI Taxi Cab Association, which is to be financed and operated entirely by veterans, was formulated about seven months ago by a white veteran, John Salerno, of 1934 Wolf street, who sold the idea to other ex-servicemen.

Shortly after the publicizing of the organization, Flowers, a veteran of two and one half years in the Army, and Wendell Keene, of 1939 Diamond street, a former Navy man, applied for membership. They were told by Salerno and the association's business manager, Louis Israel, who is not a veteran, that the quota of 63 had been filled. They were assured, however, that their names would be added to the waiting list of 37.

Smelling a "rat," these two veterans sent others to the association's office in the Market Street National Bank Building. All were told the same story by Israel.

Pressed by the colored veterans for admittance into the organization, Salerno and Israel increased the quota to 100 and filed the new quota without admitting Negroes.

Attorneys John Francis Williams and Theodore Spaulding were engaged by Flowers to investigate the matter. Consulting with the association, in July they were informed that more than 500 applications (white) had been received and that all available for the Negroes was the waiting list.

According to Williams and Spaulding, the association said that if Negroes were accepted, it would be difficult to obtain liability insurance for the cabs; and that Negroes would be given consideration only if and when there were vacancies.

Israel vigorously denies these charges. He said that he would be "glad to have Negroes in the association but at the time the quota was being filled, no Negroes applied." He claims that only two Negroes, Flowers and Keene, filed applications, both after the required number of veterans had been accepted.

Israel stated that he would gladly add the names of any veterans, white or colored, to the list, but they would have to wait their turn.

As it stands now, he said, there will be no Negroes because the two men he has considered are "very far down the list."

Charges of discrimination are false, he asserts, and are probably instigated by "Yellow Cab" which has tried to prevent the association from obtaining a franchise.

"If colored vets apply for membership, they will be considered in order just as everyone else is," he said.

Flowers says that to expressly exclude Negroes, Israel has asked each veteran to post \$2000 to cover cost of operation. The association has changed to a corporation which, as a private organization, can regulate its membership and has filed for a blanket franchise to include 100 cab drivers



45c-1945

South Carolina

WHITE CLERK FIRED FOR INSULT TO S.C.  
WOMAN. Chicago Defender 7-14-45

COLUMBIA, S.C.- James M. Hinton, Citizens' Committee secretary, said last week that a young white man had been fired by a chain store here because he insulted a colored woman customer. An investigation for the company which owned the store came from Atlanta after a report of the incident by the Citizens' committee. The woman was insulted and threatened by the youth as packages she had bought in the store were being checked.



# Dixie Jimcra at Atom Plant

Special

OAK RIDGE, Tenn.—The 8,199 Negroes who worked at the atomic bomb plant here live under the jimcra pattern of the Deep South, it was learned this week. They are employed on maintenance and construction work, live in a separate settlement, are placed in a jimcra ward at the hospital, and are assigned a certain number of jimcra chairs in the dental clinic. While many white employees live in dormitories, none of the Negroes were housed in them, but lived in small "hutments," in tents, or trailers. Negro janitors cared for the dormitories. There is no school for Negro children here, although whites have a high school, a junior high school and eight elementary schools employing 317 teachers.

Mr. Henderson found no evidence of upgrading of Negro workers and no evidence of union protection for them either, "although most of the skilled white workers belong to one of several unions represented here. Separate living and mess quarters are provided for the two races."

The white workers live in modern prefabricated dormitories, but the Negro employees occupy huts in a segregated area of the Oak Ridge community.

NEW YORK, N. Y.  
DALEY WORKER  
Circ. D. 22,000 - S. 70,000

AUG. 20, 1945

## Jimcrow Ruled as 7000 Negroes Worked on Atombomb

Seven thousand of the 75,000 workers who made the atomic bomb possible were Negroes who labored long and faithfully despite Jimcrowsm, inferior housing and social ostracism. The story of the Negro atombomb workers was told by Paul S. Henderson, in yesterday's issue of the *Afro-American*, national Negro weekly.

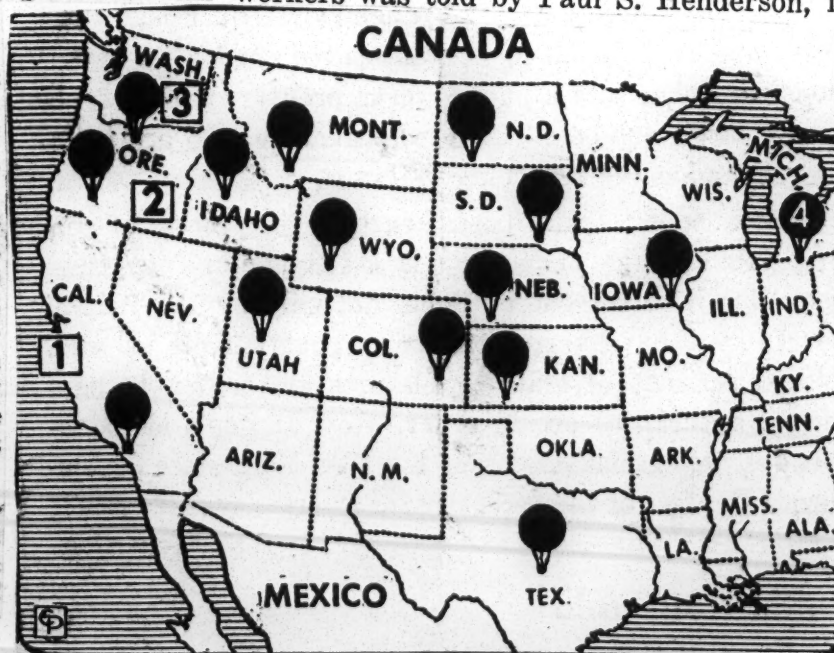
Oak Ridge is located 18 miles from Knoxville, Tenn., hidden between the Cumberland and Smoky Mountains. In three years it has grown to be the fifth largest community in the state—and yet has remained unknown to outsiders, for, as Mr. Henderson pointed out, the workers kept the atombomb secret well. Even those who were displaced by the completion of certain construction projects in which they were engaged did not discuss the Oak Ridge setup when they went on to new jobs.

Of the Negro workers, Mr. Henderson reports that practically all 'are employed in maintenance and construction and, like the rest of the employees, didn't know what was being manufactured."

"Most of the workers come from Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama," he writes. "There is no school for them, although the whites have a high school, a junior high school and eight elementary schools, employing 317 teachers."

Even the hospitals have Jimcra wards, and the dental chair clinic has "separate chairs for colored."

Mr. Henderson describes the weird



Since censorship was lifted, it has been revealed that 230 paper balloons carrying bombs launched from Japan landed in 15 states prior to Aug. 1. One floated over San Francisco (1) during the World Security Conference. Another killed six persons near Lakeview, Ore. (2) Several landed near the Hanford atomic bom plant in Washington State (3). Detroit (4) was the farthest point east to get a balloon bomb.

atmosphere in which the atombomb workers toiled, seeing vast amounts of materials "going into the plant but nothing coming out."

"This created an atmosphere of

unreality," he said, "in which giant plants operated feverishly day and night to produce nothing that could be seen or touched."



# Workers in Dark

*The Afro American Baltimore, Maryland*

## About Job 3 Years

8-18-45  
Plagued by Jim Crow at Work,  
in Housing and Other Facilities

By PAUL S. HENDERSON

Staff Correspondent

OAK RIDGE, Tenn.—Some 7,000 colored workers are among the 75,000 employed at the Clinton Engineer Works here where for 36 months they kept the secret of the atomic bomb, most powerful weapon of destruction known to man.

Located 18 miles west of Knoxville, this community, which in three years has grown to be the fifth largest in the State, is hidden in the oaks and pines between the Cumberland and Smoky Mountains.

Practically all of the colored workers are employed in maintenance and construction and, like the rest of the employees, didn't know what was being manufactured. The work is so divided that nobody actually knew what was going on.

### No School for Colored Workers

Most of the workers come from Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. There is no school for them, although the whites have a high school, a junior high school and eight elementary schools, employing 317 teachers.

There are jim-crow wards in the million-dollar 300-bed hospital and a separate colored section in the 27-chair dental clinic. Two colored registered nurses from Meharry are employed and there are a number of colored student nurse assistants.

### Told of Importance at Start

One worker, who has been on the job almost from the beginning, said that this is what they were told:

"Men, we are working on something very important. Germany is doing the same. It is very important that everybody work and say nothing. If we succeed first, we will win the war and rule the world. If the enemy beats us to it, they will do the same."

### Questioned Results

Not only did the workers not know what they were producing in the mammoth plants that use tremendous amounts of electrical energy, but the

vast majority could not be sure they were actually producing anything. 8-18-45

They would see huge quantities of material going into the plants but nothing coming out. This created an atmosphere of unreality, in which giant plants operated feverishly day and night to produce nothing that could be seen or touched.

Only certain top-ranking scientists, engineers and Army officers knew the full implications of the project, but even in such cases there were limitations.

### Units Kept Apart

The head of one plant, for instance, was kept completely insulated from other plants where different processes and methods were used.

As far as could be learned, there has been no noticeable upgrading of colored workers. Most of the skilled white workers belong to one of several unions represented here. Separate living and messing quarters are provided for the two races.

### Camouflaged Name

Oak Ridge is the heart of this Government's Atomic Bomb Pro-

ject, which, under the camouflaged name of the Manhattan Engineer District, was operated by the War Department.

Under the immediate direction of Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves in Washington and Col. Kenneth D. Nichols at Oak Ridge, it succeeded in harnessing atomic energy into the most devastating weapon in history, and in so doing, built a great industrial empire.

Few persons outside of the section and fewer throughout the country knew much about Oak Ridge, even though an industry, the best-kept secret of the war, was being built around it.

### Discussions Avoided

In addition to the town's inhabitants, some 200,000 residents of Knoxville knew that Oak Ridge had been built around a vital, secret war project, but avoided discussions involving secret projects and co-operated in maintaining security.

Thousands employed on construction who left for other parts when no longer needed, refrained from overly discussing Oak Ridge and its plants with strangers.

### Administrative Center

Oak Ridge is the residential center for the workers in one subdivision of the Manhattan Engineer District, known as Clinton Engineer Works, which covers a huge Government reservation of 59,000 acres.

Eight square miles, Oak Ridge is the administrative center for the entire Manhattan District, which includes the 631-square-mile Hanford Engineer Works near Pasco, Wash., and other divisions.

The plants at Clinton Engineer Works, where raw material is separated by three different methods, include over 425 buildings.

The town of Oak Ridge has nearly 10,000 family units, 13,000 dormitory spaces, over 5,000 trailers and 16,000 hutment and barracks spaces, its population topped only by Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

The site, acquired in the autumn of 1942, was chosen because of its accessibility to power and water, its remoteness from the Coast and its isolation.

The first family moved into its trailer home on July 3, 1943, and the first house was occupied on July 27 of that year. At the height of its construction period, one thousand houses were built per month.

Oak Ridge has 5 restaurants, 9 cafeterias and 3 lunchrooms. About 350 buses operate on the area and another 400 buses operate off the area, taking workers to their homes.

### All Facilities at Hand

In addition to houses, apartments and dormitory spaces, there are trailers, hutments and barracks. There are also a 9,400-book library, 13 supermarkets, 9 drug stores and 7 theatres and other shops. 8-18-45

Hospitalization and medical care is provided through a voluntary insurance plan, the worker paying \$2 per month for all hospital and medical bills except home care.

### Employee Problems Great

Labor turnover and absenteeism problems have been great. Most of the dissatisfaction hinged on the lack of facilities found in normal communities.

The addition of recreational features, including tennis courts, baseball diamonds and recreation halls, has assisted greatly in keeping workers on the job.



# Houston Former—Houston Scene Of Hearings 5-5-45

I don't think it will do any good."

At the end of the conference, however, the men say the manager changed his mind and asked them not to do anything until they heard from him.

They never heard from him, both declared, so they turned the case over to the FEPC.

HOUSTON—The case of 27 former switchmen against the Southern Pacific Railway company, charging the Texas and New Orleans subsidiary of the company with discrimination in hiring employees, is scheduled for a hearing by the Fair Employment Committee May 4 at 10 a. m., in Room 707 of the Federal Office building on Fannin and Franklin streets, it was announced this week.

After eighteen months of investigation, the FEPC is ready to present the case which has been pending since 1944. The examining commissioners include, Attorney Simon Stickgold, A. Bruce Hunt, presiding judge, and regional director of the FEPC, W. Don Ellinger.

The case grew out of the Houston and Texas Central subsidiary's ceasing to hire Negro switchmen in 1937 while the T & NO continued to hire whites.

Two specific cases were aired when two of the switchmen, who had been employed since 1926, claim they were cut off in 1932. The two men both switchmen for the H & TC subsidiary, worked in different industries for 10 years and were rehired by the company as brakemen on the HE-WT in 1942.

Sent to Another Yard

The men say that they were cut off the same year and sent to the Anglewood yards where they were hired as laborers, a demotion, they claim, and later promoted to carmen helpers. They stated that they called on the general manager of the personnel department and presented their case to him, asking to be reinstated to their former positions as switchmen, and were told by the manager that "his hands were tied" because of contracts and agreements the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen now hold with the company and the men claim that these contracts and agreements have been the sole cause of their failure to be reinstated to their former positions.

Some time later, the men say they asked the manager for permission to turn the case over to the NAACP and was asked by him, "Who is the NAACP?" They say they explained the organization to the manager and after a long pause, he replied, "You have my permission to do so but



# Separate Local Discriminatory Says Examiner

3-6-45  
Term Decision

## Of Far-Reaching

## Import To Race

3-6-45

RICHMOND, Va.—(SNS)— Another decision of far-reaching import striking at the jim crow union, sometimes more respectfully referred to as the auxiliary union, was delivered Monday when the National Labor Relations Board held that Richmond Local No. 219, Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL, must admit as members Negro employees of Larus and Brothers, Inc.

The board holding that the colored employees were eligible for membership in the local, recommended cancellations of the charter of the Local 219-B, the auxiliary formed last year as a separate organization for the Negro workers.

3-6-45  
STARTED BY CIO

This blow upon the segregated union, apparently was to be headed by the auxiliary itself, but came as a flank attack on the AFL by the powerful CIO, which demanded that the board's certification of Local 219 as the collective bargaining agent for the tobacco workers be rescinded on the grounds that the organization did not provide for equal representation of all employees irrespective of race or color.

The CIO, it appears from the report of the NLRB examiner, Frank Bloom, initiated the action following an election at the plant on March 14 last, when by a vote of 413 AFL to 370, CIO, the workers voted for AFL representation.

Immediately after the election, the examiner found, "a move was initiated to set up a segregated local within the structures of the international union, segregating for collective bargaining purposes the white and colored employees in the unit."

## VIOLATED CONSTITUTION

Mr. Bloom held "that by establishing a separate local for colored employees the international and the AFL have:

1. Violated the purpose and in-

tent of the board in its discrimination of the unit.

2. Engaged in discriminatory segregation... and

3. Have violated rights guaranteed by the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

The board allowed Local 219 fifteen days to comply with the recommendations or suffer revocation of its certification as the collective bargaining agent for Larus Brothers employees.

## BENJAMIN ACCUSED

The segregated union was mainly the outgrowth of activities of George Benjamin, the examiner found, a Negro vice president of the international, who, it is charged, initiated the move to establish the auxiliary. Mr. Bloom in his report, stated that Benjamin testified that he had advised Negro workers "that it would be better for them to be in a union to themselves; that it would develop leadership."

The principal issues to be determined by the board were whether the local with which the company had entered into a collective bargaining agreement was the one certified by the board, and whether such organization provided equal representation of all employees irrespective of race or color.

## CONCLUSIONS REACHED

Conclusions announced by Examiner Bloom were:

1. That the organization with which the company has entered into a contract is not the organization certified by the board.

2. That Local 219, the only organization under contract with the company, does not provide for equal representation of all employees of the unit.

3. That the current agreement does not confer equal rights and privilege to all employees within the unit.

4. That by establishing a separate local for Negro employees the union engaged in discriminatory segregation, "running counter not only to the board's frequently enunciated policy but also to the national policy expressed by the President."

## OTHER MAJOR DECISIONS

The decision of the NLRB constitutes the third major judicial or quasi-judicial opinion handed down within recent months virtually outlawing the jim crow locals. Chief among these was the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the Tunstall-Steele case.

This was preceded by a ruling of the Supreme Court of the State of California, holding the auxiliary

to be invalid. During the summer a Federal judge in Rhode Island had delivered a similar opinion.

# Dixie AFL Union Official

# Defends Labor Jim Crow

Afro-American

WASHINGTON  
The official stamp of approval was put on the segregated policies of the American Federation of Labor by George L. Googe, Southern organizational director, in a recent statement before the National Labor Relations Board.

Testifying before the board as representative of the Tobacco Workers' International, AFL, Googe, for 18 years Southern organizational director with headquarters in Atlanta, defended segregation of colored union members at Larus and Brother (Tobacco) Company in Richmond, Va.

Said Googe, in part, "union members) into a big white local, you take away from them their freedom, their opportunity to be elected to office, to deal with management; they are not going to be elected on the committees in

a mixed union to deal with management.

7-24-45  
Calls Jim Crow "Democratic"  
"But by putting them in a separate local, you would give them their free autonomy, their full democratic rights. They can be elected to office, deal with management, have their own local unit funds; they have equal rights in dealing with management."

EDITOR'S NOTE—Contrary to the policy of the AFL, the CIO does not segregate colored members in its locals and in numerous cities have colored officials holding important union positions. The CIO holds contracts with the R. J. Reynolds and American Tobacco Companies.

## Throws Sop to NAACP

"They have equal rights in dealing with the International Union. They can use their own funds to participate in civic endeavors—yes, to make contributions to the NAACP out of their own local union treasury," concluding that to submerge them into the white local would cut off any such possible donation.

Opposing Googe at the hearing on behalf of the National Lawyers Guild, was Judge William Hastie, vice-president of the District branch of the NAACP.



# Negro Women Get Black Dispatch Poorest Jobs In Tobacco Industry

3-10-45

RICHMOND.—(ANP)—Negro women in the tobacco industry tell the same century-old story. There are none in the manufacturing departments of the cigaret factories.

The same type of work, prefabrication, is done by the women. The work of prefabrication consists of shaking out tobacco, removing inferior quantities. No women are employed on machines.

Chesterfields, Lucky Strikes, Dominoes, Chelsea, Phillip Morris are the leading brands manufactured by the American, Liggett Myers, Philip Morris and Larus Brothers. 3-10-45

Years ago the women were paid by weight. When machines were introduced in the prefabrication, the older women made a small wage due to slowness and the four days' pay amounted to about \$4.50 a week.

The pay now under the WLB runs 65 cents per hour for 48 hours; one and one-half for overtime work, against 30 cents an hour four years ago.

All women are started at the same price per hour, but white women in the final analysis receive larger pay due to the type of work done. 3-10-45

One personnel manager stated that there was no doubt of the capabilities of Negro women in the manufacturing of cigarets but on account of the custom of segregation in the south, it would be impossible to place them in the departments of manufacturing and packing.

## 'White Only' Wanted To Make Lucky Strikes

RICHMOND, Va.—Negroes can smoke Lucky Strike cigarettes, but they can't help make them—not in Dixie.

The producers of Luckies advertised for help in a local daily this week. The two column ad read: "Help (white) to make Lucky Strike cigarettes. . . . Men and women who desire opportunity for good pay and post-war opportunities should apply to 26th and Cary streets. . . . Ideal working conditions . . . rapid advancement."

Lucky Strike cigarettes have long been a favorite among many Negro smokers. The company, however, has jobs for "whites only."

# HELP

## (WHITE)

## TO MAKE

# LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTES

Richmond Times-Dispatch

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Virginia

Men and women who desire opportunity for good pay and postwar opportunities should apply to—

10-13-45  
**26TH and CARY STS.**

## Ideal Working Conditions

## Rapid Advancement

## TIME AND ONE-HALF OVER 40 HOURS

## 8 PER CENT EXTRA FOR NIGHT WORK

## Now Working 48 Hours Per Week

## Girls Must Be Over 18 Years of Age

# Railroads Stymied In Hiring Negro Firemen By Union Opposition

ROANOKE, Va.—The hiring of Negro firemen on the 22 railroads in the Southeastern Carrier District since 1941 has been completely stymied by the arrogant racial discrimination policy of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, it is disclosed in copies of exhibits on file in the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia. 4-17-45

The exhibits, mimeographed copies of which were recently distributed among its members by the Association of Colored

Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen from its headquarters here, show that the discriminatory policy settled upon by the railroads and the brotherhood has the official approval of the National Mediation Board in Washington, D. C.

## MEDIATION AGREEMENT

In settlement of differences between the Atlantic Coast Line Railway and the Brotherhood an agreement was reached and approved by the National Mediation Board on Washington in February 18, 1941, providing as follows:

1. Only promotable men will be employed for service as locomotive firemen or for service as helpers on other than steam power.

2. When new runs or jobs are established, runs or jobs in any service, only promotable firemen or helpers will be assigned to them.

4. It is understood that promotable firemen or helpers on other than steam power are those who are in line for promotion under the present rules and practices to the position of locomotive engineer.

## OTHER ROADS INCLUDED

The agreement is directed specifically at the Atlantic Coast Line Railway Company, but declares that it shall include 22 other railroads in the Southeastern District.

In the exhibit filed by the brotherhood non-promotable men are defined as Negroes, regardless of seniority or qualifications.

It is also shown that the Atlantic Coast Line railway Company made several attempts to employ Negro firemen since 1941, but in each instance the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen protested, calling the company's attention to the agreement cited above.

## "NON-PROMOTABLE" TERM

The term, "non-promotable," however it is indicated, was not originated by the brotherhood, but is derived from the carrier's traditional policy of never promoting Negro locomotive firemen to locomotive engineers. The "gentlemen's agreement" seeks not only to perpetuate this

traditional policy, but to prevent the further employment of Negroes as firemen on the grounds that they are not eligible to promotion under railroad management policy.

The exhibits on file in the court also disclose that in 1925 R. L. Glenn, general chairman of the brotherhood, reached an agreement with railroad management providing that only promotable men would be hired. Says the exhibit, "White men then and now are classed by the management as promotable and Negroes were then and now classed by the management as non-promotable." 11-17-45

In December, 1942, the brotherhood threatened a strike against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad on the grounds that the company persisted in violating the "gentlemen's agreement" declaring "it is unfair to the promotable men to have the jobs as firemen filled with non-promotable men who apparently have no responsibilities except to act as firemen and eventually become drones, while the promotable men must study, purchase expensive books, etc., and if they fail to pass the very strict examinations required of them they are removed from the service. The non-promotable men therefore do not contribute to the efficient and safe operation of the railroad." 11-17-45

"The promotable men now being hired by the Atlantic Coast Line are Negroes, so far as we know. These Negroes are non-promotable because the management had decreed that they be non-promotable. We found, at the conference, that you indicated a desire to discuss discrimination as between the Negro and white race. In that connection you said nothing about the company promoting only white men to the position of locomotive engineer."



# Denied Job At USES Office In Roanoke

*Journal and Guide*  
*Louisville Kentucky*  
*12-1-45*

By S. R. JOHNSON JR.

and from Roanoke. 12-1-45  
There are no Negroes working in the Employment Service in Roanoke. Only recently a Negro was appointed to the Post Office as mail carrier after more than twenty years. In other sections of the state Negroes are serving in the capacity of Federal workers.

ROANOKE, Va. — Miss Mary A. Parker, of Union Hall, Va., was denied a job in the local U. S. Employment Services here on Monday, of last week presumably on account of her race. Miss Parker was notified to report for work as a senior typist.

Upon arrival, Miss Parker, who recently returned from the Pacific as a Red Cross worker, said, "Mr. Herbert, area supervisor, talked with me at length and seemingly did not want to mention the problem of color. I talked quite freely on the color question and frankly told him I knew that I wasn't given the job because I am colored."

He then sent me on a sort of "merry goose chase." He made several calls—one to the Rev. A. L. James, one to the U. S. Employment office on Campbell avenue and one to the Civil Service Director in the Post Office building. 12-1-45

## CONTACTED ALL PLACES

"I went to all of these places. First, I went to the Employment Office where I was interviewed right away, possibly because the contact had been made. I gave a detailed history of my training and experience, but was not assured of employment."

"I then went to Rev. James' office. I got the impression I had been sent there to be gotten rid of. Rev. James called Mr. Herbert, and told him he felt I should be given some consideration, that if I couldn't be placed here, some effort should be made to have me placed in Richmond, Norfolk or Washington."

## COULD DO NOTHING

"The men in the Post Office told me there wasn't anything they could do about the problem, but suggested I write to the office in Winston-Salem again stating my problem."

This is the second time that Miss Parker has come to Roanoke and has been denied work because of her color. On another occasion during the month of September she was called to the local Veterans Facility for a personal interview and was very definitely told that Negroes would not be hired. On both of these trips Miss Parker has paid all of her expenses to

# Streetcar People's Voice Jobs Barred

SEATTLE — The local transit company here was reported last week to have developed a new technique in evading the question of hiring Negro bus drivers—six have been trained and all were disqualified as incompetent by the union.

Dean Hart, executive secretary of the local Urban league, charged that the conspiracy exists between the Seattle Transit system and the company's union. In order to dodge FEPC violations, the transit system trains Negro applicants but the union disqualifies them during examinations under union officials. 3-3-45

Efforts to establish discrimination charges against the transit company will be made by pushing the drive for bus driver recruits who will apply, then be trained and disqualified by union examinations. This strategy is said to be based upon the assumption that the company union will follow its same procedure of disqualifying Negro applicants by the way of examinations.

On the other hand, Negro girls are being employed by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, Hart reported. The Urban league head, however, did not reveal in what capacity they were being hired. 3-3-45

A favorable report is expected from the governor on the state FEPC.

The rulings go farther than the NLRB has gone before. The NLRB has actually said in plain language that it is all right for the AFL to have one union for whites and another for Negroes in the same bargaining unit. In a letter to the NLRB by CIO President Philip Murray, he wrote:

"In all three cases the simple issue is this: 'Shall a union be certified by your board as the exclusive collective bargaining representatives of a group of employees in the face of an admitted rule on the part of that union that it will not accept into full membership any Negroes who may be a part of such a group of employees?' 7-15-45

The cases involved the Larus and Brother tobacco manufacturing plant in Richmond, Va.; the AFL Tobacco Union and the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union (CIO); the General Motors St. Louis plant, the AFL and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (CIO), and the Atlanta Oak Flooring Co., of Atlanta, Ga., and the AFL Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. 7-15-45

By its decision in the Larus case, the NLRB "is surrendering to the principles of the enemies of democratic trade unionists," President Donald Henderson, of the CIO union involved, wrote in a letter to the board, July 9. With the other decisions, it indicated, he said, that "this line is becoming a consistent policy of the board."

The GM decision went so far as to declare that a union could exclude Negroes completely from membership, even though they were in the bargaining unit.

they are eligible for membership in the white local, and Local 219-B's charter revoked by the AFL.

Following Bloom's decision, the CIO executive board unanimously adopted a ruling advising the NLRB that its action in the case would represent "a vital test of the Wagner Act at a time when this country is engaged in a bitter struggle for democracy and against racial discrimination."

The board upheld the trial examiner's findings that Local 219-B, the jimmecrow local, "is not a party to the contract and as a union accordingly has no rights thereunder." While the white committee of Local 219 met with the company, the Negro committee of Local 219-B "participated by sufferance of both the company and the white local."

But because the Negroes had rights in the unit, as distinguished from the union, the board denies the CIO contention that the AFL subverted the board's ruling that bargaining should be on the basis of a single unit.

It is rather long-winded and apparently defensive in its decision. It goes back to previous NLRB decisions. In closed shop situations the board has held that the union could not fire a man for not being a member, if the union wouldn't let him be a member.

"Although these decisions were criticized vigorously by some sections of organized labor," says the decision, delicately avoiding the letters, AFL, "... the Supreme Court ultimately upheld these policies."

Finally, the NLRB decided that, since the check-off and inferentially the maintenance of membership re-

ment. The board found it was "unable to agree that the segregation ... is per se a form of racial discrimination in violation of the national policy and of the Fifth Amendment."

The Supreme Court in two railroad cases held the Brotherhood of Firemen and Engineers could not deny promotion from fireman to engineer to a member because he was a Negro. It was taken to the courts because, under the Railway Act, no provision is made for protection of minorities through administrative procedures.

For the NLRB, as it is now doing, to cite these cases as illustrative of how discrimination in bargaining, or in regard to working conditions, is the only discrimination they must guard against, is ironical, CIO people point out. For the board operates under the Wagner Act, the only act on the books frankly prejudicial in labor's behalf—and an act under serious attack by the enemies of labor now, incidentally.

Actually, say CIO attorneys, the Supreme Court did not rule on any other form of discrimination, such as jimmecrow locals, because no other was at issue. The same was true in another case in which it upheld the New York State civil rights statute making it a misdemeanor to exclude Negroes from unions on a basis of color or creed.

## NLRB Decisions Peril Labor and Negroes

By VIRGINIA GARDNER  
The Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON.—CIO attorneys in conference here this week faced, among other things, the serious problems presented by recent National Labor Relations Board rulings approving jimmecrow locals.

The CIO will fight the rulings up to the Supreme Court, if necessary. Here will be seen the odd instance of the unions going to the Supreme Court in protest against the board's interpretation of labor's magna charta, the Wagner Act, where heretofore it has been management.

The NLRB goes about all this in a super-legal fashion. In the Larus case it says a jimmecrow and a white union aren't discriminatory under the Wagner Act, so long as they don't discriminate in bargaining—i.e., on wages, hours and the like. The CIO says the jimmecrow local set-up is discriminatory per se, because the Negroes cannot have any real voice in making their demands known. 7-15-45

The board overruled NLRB Trial Examiner Frank Bloom, who recommended that AFL certification in the Larus plant be revoked unless the Negro workers were notified that

requirement were applied to both AFL locals, that it would have revoked the AFL certification in the Larus case—except that it had expired! So it ordered a new election on a jimmecrow basis.

In the Atlanta case, there was no CIO union involved, but the company itself questioned the AFL's right to represent its Negro employees because it engaged in illegal and discriminatory segregation of employees on the sole basis of race and color in contravention of the rational policy," as expressed in Executive Order 88-2 and 9346, and in violation of the Fifth Amend-



# 400,000 White Maids Quit

## Colored Increased 50,000

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON — Four hundred thousand white women have left maid jobs and gone into war work, while colored domestics have a 50,000-increase since 1940, a Labor Department study showed recently. 3-3-45

## Leaves White House After Twelve Years

WASHINGTON, D. C. (NNPA) — After twelve years at the White House in the service of the Roosevelts, Mrs. Elizabeth McDuffie, whose husband was once valet to the President, is leaving. She is returning to Atlanta, Ga., where her father is ill. 5-12-45

Mrs. McDuffie, because of her close association with the Roosevelt household became the entre for many Negroes who found it inexpedient or impractical to get by the barriers of the front gate of the White House. She was more than a household servant—she was a liaison to the Roosevelts for many who wanted to drop a hint or seek a favor. 5-2-45

She was with the President at warm Springs, Ga., during the visit on which he died. It was customary for her to make these trips which his party.

Wages Double

Just after the war started these wages were hiked up to as much as \$15 weekly, but then the ever increasing jobs in munition plants offered the greater incentive. Here the ex-maid could double and often triple the \$15 stipulation and also maintain regular working hours. 3-3-45

Then, too, other attractions have beckoned to the house maid, attractions such as the \$50 dependency check the woman receives when her man has gone to serve Uncle Sam. With many husbands themselves getting paid from \$50 to more than \$100 per week for war work, former maids are doing their best to find kitchen and bottle cleaners for themselves.

According to the study by the Labor Department, however, many of the women who have never before worked, have accepted maid jobs while the "white help" went to the factory. Statistics point out:

50,000 Increase

Between 1940 and 1944 the number of colored women domestics increased 50,000 "but it was not enough to counterbalance the decline of 400,000 among white domestic servants."

Aside from 1,000,000 colored men in the armed forces, more than 5,500,000 others are working in this country. The number of colored men at work in civilian jobs has increased 300,000 and the number of colored women working has increased 600,000 since 1940. 3-3-45

## Domestic Service

## Household Servants

*The Informer*  
Through the kindness of the editors of The American Magazine we are using excerpts from "Household Servants Are Gone Forever," (March, 1945) as a backdrop for a report on a cross-section of opinion from employers of Negro domestic workers and Negro domestic workers in Houston. The report of our survey will appear in this paper May 12.

One million housemaids all over the country have hung up their aprons, donned overalls, and deserted homes for war plants. A few upper-income families can still get help by paying up to \$150 a month for single workers, but for the average middle-income family Mildred, the maid-of-all-work, has faded into memory. 5-5-45

However, many a housewife, now overburdened with domestic drudgery, is saying hopefully, "As soon as Mildred is laid off after the war I know she will be glad to come back to me."

But I wonder. I'm familiar with the conditions under which Mildred used to work. She drew down \$14 a week and put in a 12-hour day. There was scarcely a minute of her waking hours she could count with certainty her own. With just Thursday and Sunday afternoons off, she had little opportunity to mingle socially with girls of her own age.

Mildred is now in a factory where she works eight hours a day, six days a week, and makes about \$33. She has social security and workmen's compensation. She works side by side with girls who have similar interests, bowls with them, takes part in the activities of their union. Outside the factory she's her own boss. 5-5-45

Half the girls in war plants mean to keep on working after the war. Four out of five would prefer to stay in factory jobs. Many are striving to fit themselves for new occupations: hotel, restaurant and department-store work. Not one in 1000 wants to return to old-style domestic service. Radical changes are in order if we hope to persuade these girls to lay down their wrenches and pick up mops and brooms.

The National Council of Household Employment was formed ten years ago to coordinate the efforts of the many groups—YWCA's, the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, countless women's clubs and civic organizations—interested in raising housework standards. We have listened to laments from

both housewives and servants. The latter complained of prevailing low pay ("I can't lay up a nickel"), unattractive living conditions ("There is not even a comfortable chair to sit in when my work's done"), lack

of privacy (She's always snooping in my room"), and social stigma ("I'm ashamed to tell my boy friend I'm a maid"). Even louder wails were occasioned by the long uncertain hours. But the biggest gripe was the lack of freedom, the consciousness of being eternally at someone else's beck.

Meanwhile mistresses unburdened their minds to me about the "experienced cooks" they'd hired who couldn't fry an egg, about flighty maids who thought themselves "too good" for housework. Now that housewives have learned to do their own work they are less likely to put up with these shortcomings than they were before the war. 5-5-45

"I've scrubbed floors, washed the clothes, dressed the kids and cooked the dinners for two years now," a young mother told me not long ago. "Hereafter, the girl who carries a key to my home has got to be trustworthy, courteous and efficient. I'll take less service than before but whatever work I pay for will be professionally well done."

Streamlined housing and mechanical inventions will not eliminate the postwar need for servants. The four-course dinner that wafts itself on your table ready cooked exists only in the story books. But if we can't abolish housework, we can dignify it and raise it to the level of a profession or trade. It's time we recognized the right of cooks and chambermaids, equally with factory workers, to a normal family life.

In this mechanical age it's nonsense to class housework as an "unskilled" calling. I know one girl who was required to operate a washer, mangle, electric iron, vacuum cleaner, waxer, and pressure cooker; to answer the telephone, receive guests, order groceries, check the bills, and look after a small baby. She received the magnificent sum of 20 cents an hour. Last year she quit to work in an aircraft factory for 75 cents an hour. 5-5-45

If the present trends continue, you will meet your postwar domestic worker on a clear-cut, employer-employee basis. You will grant her the same hours, pay, freedom and respect that you would if she were working for you in a factory, store or office. She will not think of herself as a "maid" or "servant"; you will probably refer to her as a "housekeeper" or "household assistant," depending on her duties and degree of experience.

She will work a 5½- or six-day week. Her time off will be sacred. She'll quit at her agreed time each evening, even though your husband misses his train and gets home late for dinner. She will not live in, except in rare instances. If she

does, she may agree to ten hours a week "on call" evenings in return for her room. Working an eight-hour shift, she won't be there at both ends of the day. Either you'll get up mornings to prepare breakfast, and have the evening to relax; or you'll sleep late, but serve your own dinner and wash the dishes.

The law will probably require you to carry workmen's compensation insurance, so that if the worker in your home is injured both she and you will be protected. That's only fair. In the United States, one accident in ten occurs in the kitchen, and three times as many accidents happen in homes as in factories. You are also likely to be taxed to provide unemployment insurance and retirement benefits.

In return, you can expect your household assistant to know her job and do it well, without constant supervision. How much you pay her will depend somewhat on where you live. In a city like Buffalo or Milwaukee the full-time services of a trained houseworker may cost about \$20 a week. In small communities wages will be slightly lower.

When Mildred and her friends come trooping from the factories, they're going to find a whole new deal awaiting them. But they won't be the only gainers. By putting housework on a business basis, we will get more and better service crowded into fewer hours, we'll end the mutually degrading mistress-maid relationship and we'll find new privacy and a more intimate family life. In short, by freeing domestic workers from their old servitude, we shall free our homes as well.



# If a Domestic Worker, Be a Good One, Says League



*The Afro American* *Baltimore, Maryland* *10-18-43*  
The above scenes taken at the Martha Washington Vocational School illustrate the formula espoused by the Washington Urban League for domestic workers. Greater efficiency means better pay. Left to right, Miss Anita Hayes is a student in the household operations classes conducted by Mrs. Rhett Prudhomme; center a class in food preparation taught by Mrs. Mercedes Wilson; operating a vacuum cleaner is Miss Louise Hutchison as Barbara Robinson answers the telephone.



45d-1945

Domestic Service

# **\$20 to \$25 Weekly Pay Set for Domestic; Chicago Group Also Favors Paid Vacations**

Special to THE

CHICAGO, Jan. 31—A dozen

home-makers stepped into the buyers market for help today with the passage of a set of standards for household workers as the guiding chart of the new Y.W.C.A. Household Employers League.

Wages for household help were set at \$20 to \$25 a week with time and a half for overtime along with one week of paid vacations and four national holidays a year, in the draft of standards accepted by the representatives of "management" meeting today at the Y.W.C.A. Loop center.

The scale for workers living "in" was based on a fifty-four-hour week. Those living "out" would operate on a forty-eight-hour week, but would eat meals on their own time. The differential of six hours would take in traveling time, but in either case the work-week was not to exceed sixty hours except in emergencies. 2-1-45

Living-in conditions were carefully defined. For instance, time-on-call through the day when the worker was free to do what she liked but was available to answer doorbells, telephone calls and emergencies was on a two-for-one basis—two such hours counted for one actual working hour. The help must have a private room adequately furnished, with adequate access to and use of a bath and an adequate diet.

Membership fees in the league were set at \$5, a charge for expenses of publicity to interest capable young women in turning household work as industrial employment slackened. The league is building a post-war plan 2-1-45

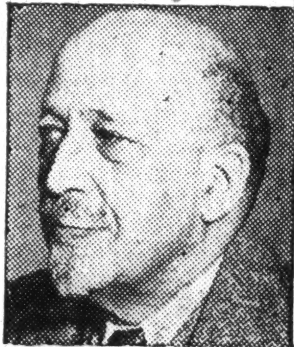
First hand advice on getting the attention of such girls came from Mrs. Julia Peters, now a waitress, but a household helper on the North Side for fifteen years. She said she came representing fifteen other women, nearly all of whom had now left domestic service. The best way to keep a good helper was to treat her well, said Mrs. Peters—and treating a girl well did not necessarily mean paying her high wages. It was in terms of courtesy and respect. 2-1-45

Referred to the executive committee for debate today was a question of membership in the league for women who subscribed to the ideals of the standards but did not quite conform to them for various reasons in their own employment practices.

## **W. E. B. DuBois The Winds of Time**

Chicago Defender 911.  
The Future of Domestic

HOW SHALL we read the riddle posed by our article of last week with regard to menial service? The real reason for the attitude of servants and laborers toward their work lies in the minds of the employers and not in the minds of the workers. Just as long as the average person in the world regards it as socially degrading to cook, to clean house, to wait on table, wash clothes, empty garbage, dig in the earth, and lift burdens; just so long as this kind of work is regarded as degrading, the people who do it and who are compelled to do it will bitterly resent the necessity which compels them to do this work.



Such workers, particularly if they have training, intelligence, and ambition, will feel at enmity with the world. They will tend to do the work carelessly or resentfully. They will pout and slow up on the job. On the other hand, it is equally clear that these kinds of work are not in themselves degrading, but are of high social value. There are few sorts of work in the world of more importance than the preparation and serving of food; than the sanitation which depends upon cleanliness; than the moving of articles so that they will be in the right place at the right time; the cleaning of clothes; the lifting and carrying of burdens. These are life and necessary life but you cannot make people realize this if you stigmatize this kind of work with social degradation.

### **Need for High Regard**

WORK THAT is necessary and worth doing must be held in the correspondingly high regard by the public. Young people must be trained to do it in the best and most efficient way. The people who do it must be paid adequately and must be secure in tenure. The hours and the conditions of the labor must be standardized according to civilized usage. The work must carry with it no inevitable mark of inferiority, like addressing without courtesy titles of "Miss" and "Mrs."; or some other customs which mark the person as different and lower in rank.

We can see some of the changes in the social estimation in which common labor and personal service have been held, beginning to appear. We have chefs in hotels and in restaurants who are well-paid and respected. We have organized house-cleaning, with trained and adequately

treated personnel. Organized laundry work has come with appropriate machinery; there is rational disposal of garbage; digging and lifting by engineers with machines is common.

### **Raising of Wages 4-21-45**

USUALLY, however, when these changes take place in the technique of these necessary services a few people are elevated, trained, and put at the head with good pay, while most of the others become factory hands, ill-paid and insecure, and less satisfied with their work than when it was personal service. On the other hand those left in personal service either become flunkies, paid by gratuities and tips or sink to casual workers partially dependent on charity. In both cases their self-respect disappears.

It is on these conditions that the attack must be made in order to counteract the low regard for certain kinds of human labor. The essential work of the world must be done. No necessary work is menial in essence or should be so regarded. There must be training for all sorts of necessary work; but not only that, there must be in all cases adequate pay and social respect. What we are seeing, therefore, today is a forecast of the things which we must face if we are going to realize democracy in the world, democracy not only in politics, but in work, in income, in distribution of the world's goods.

The reform does not come about simply by saying parrot-like that house-service is "respectable" when we know it is not respected; it is not effected by raising wages on lowly jobs and still regarding these jobs as undignified. The raising of wages must be followed by security, by training, and above all by fundamental change in the attitude of the world towards certain categories of work and toward common labor and menial service.



# More Maids Since 1940, But Many Heed Call To War Jobs

## Skilled Negro Daily Worker Women Forced to Take Domestic Jobs

By MILDRED MCADORY

Thousands of women workers are seeking any sort of employment at the U. S. Employment offices throughout the city after having been laid off without notice.

At the Brooklyn USES office at 205 Schermerhorn St., some of these women, many of them Negroes had grim and discouraged faces as they received slips to go out on domestic jobs, hospital jobs, and any other kind that would pay a little more than the factory jobs they had been offered since the Japanese were defeated.

Mrs. Katherine Comer, for example, has been a factory worker for five years.

"I worked as a Milling Machine operator in an airplane factory," she said. "Lots of us were laid off."

When I asked her if she preferred domestic work, she said:

"Oh no, I'd much rather work in a factory, but what am I going to do? I have four children to support."

Mrs. Comer has saved no money—there wasn't enough even with wartime pay. The factory jobs now offer \$20-25 a week.

"I can't live on that," she said, "not with the cost of living where it is. It's just impossible."

The only reason these women take domestic work is because they feel that at present they can make a little more than at the factory jobs offered them. Although they know they lose the unemployment insurance due them, they feel that the \$21 a week would not help much where there are children to support. The domestic jobs now pay from 70 to 85 cents an hour.

These women have lost the "snap" and have no such uplifting organizations as the Society for the Advancement of Colored People, some preparation should have been made, that unemployment pay should have begun immediately

"I have concluded that we are unwittingly insulting our Negro friends by this," she wrote. "Evidently they no longer want domestic work. Some have college degrees and what erudite person wants to belittle herself by performing such menial tasks as cooking, cleaning and laundering?"

What is to be the Negro's fare? The housewife, obviously disgruntled because she has gotten housemaids' knees and "rough, chapped hands" while her erstwhile maids 'did their bit' in defense plants, said the Negro would thereby be released "for positions more befitting their newly acquired status of culture and education, even if they had to return to their native Africa to find them".

### Race Domestics Increased 50,000, Report Reveals

According to the study by the labor department, however, many of the Negro women who have never before worked, have accepted maid jobs while the "white help" when to the factory. Statistics point out:

Between 1940 and 1944 the number of Negro women domestics increased 50,000 "but it was not enough to counterbalance the decline of 400,000 among white domestic servants."

Aside from one million Negroes in the armed forces more than 5,500,000 Negroes are working in this country. The number of Negro men at work in civilian jobs has increased 300,000 and the number of Negro women working has increased 600,000 since 1940.

According to the labor department's study which is recorded in the "monthly labor review," "the extent which these gains can be retained will be largely dependent upon the maintenance of a high level of post-war employment."

This means, reflected a news commentator, that if there are plenty of jobs for everybody, the Negroes will have jobs. If not, they'll undoubtedly suffer first and most from employment.

### THE DAWN BREAKS -- NEGROES NO LONGER WANT DOMESTIC WORK, VIRGINIAN DISCOVERS

The Los Angeles Tribune  
RICHMOND—This town has at least one bright Caucasian. She's an unidentified housewife, who has finally made the momentous discovery that Negroes "no longer want domestic work", and she's appalled by the knowledge.

Writing a heavily sarcastic letter to the daily Richmond News letter, the housewife suggested that Richmond women who are getting "no takers" for their domestic jobs, even at 15 and 20 dollars per week, give up the Negro as a bad job and "petition Congress to bring in Filipinos and Chinese."

"They make excellent domestics

These women have lost the "snap" and have no such uplifting organizations as the Society for the Advancement of Colored People", some preparation should have been made, that unemployment pay should have begun immediately

Los Angeles, Calif.



# HOUSEWORK

a true story

*The Worker*  
by Nancy Outram  
*New York, N.Y.*

I HAD never done housework for anyone. But since help was very hard to get, I thought that someone would hire me without references. I looked through the want ad sections of the papers. Here is what happened:

I found an ad—"Girl wanted to do housework, no cooking." I had no cooking experience; I thought this was my chance. So I called at the address, an apartment on West End Avenue.

When the Madam interviewed me, she asked if I had references. I said no; but if you will give me a chance, I will show you that I am able, honest and reliable."

"Whom did you clean for before?" the Madam asked.

I replied that I have an apartment and I clean for myself.

She answered in a very mean way: "You people do not clean well enough for us."

In a very calm manner I asked that she give me a chance. "If I am not satisfactory you will not have to pay me."

"I am sorry. You cannot clean for me if you have only cleaned for yourself," she replied.

"All right, Mrs. —" I said, "if you don't get a girl and decide to try me, here is my address."

Two days later someone rang my doorbell. Lo and behold, it was Mrs. —.

"Come in," I said as she entered the hall.

She stopped and asked, "Is this your apartment?"

My floors looked like mirrors. I had done a thorough cleaning the day before.

"Oh, you have a very nice place here," she said.

I showed her every room of my three-room apartment. She was startled.

"Won't you sit down?" I asked.

As she sat on my down-cushioned sofa she asked where I got my furniture. "Chippendale?" she asked, pointing to a piece.

"Chinese," I answered.

She admired a picture hanging over

the head of the bed—an original Japanese print of a wild horse—which I had purchased before the war.

After she had seen the livingroom, bedroom and bath, and had admired my sense of taste, and had said that my apartment was immaculate, I said: "This is the way we people keep house."

I showed her the window sills. "Do you see any dust?" I asked. "That is how we people clean." She apologized for what she had said two days before.

I asked her to please come into the kitchen; I was just going to have breakfast.

"Will you join me?" *10-14-45*  
"No, thanks."

"Will you sit with me while I eat?"  
She said, "Yes."

As she entered the kitchen she remarked that it was spotless. My aluminum coffee pot looked like white gold. I had waffles, fried chicken and coffee.

Suddenly she said, "Your coffee smells so good I would like to have a cup. And how do you make your waffles?"

She had two cups of coffee and waffles.

"Why do you want to do housework for someone else? You have a beautiful apartment. It seems that you are very comfortable; and I did not know that colored people lived so nice."

"You are ignorant of the facts," I said. "We don't meet together enough. You read the worst things in the papers about us; but the good things you never get. You are a woman—the same as I. The difference is only in our skins. If we knew one another better. . . ."

As I talked to her she began to cry.

"Mrs. Outram," she said, "I can see it all clearly now."



P.R.

*Two days later someone rang my doorbell. Lo and behold, it was Mrs. —.*



# The Kitchen Is Empty

Courier-Journal

AS FAR as the kitchen is concerned, the war is still on. Though industries have released many Negro women in Louisville, domestic servants are still hard to find. And that, say Negro leaders, is because these women look on domestic service as a last resort, and will not return to it until they have tried every other channel.

Many discharged war workers are subsisting now on their unemployment insurance, and this experience is keeping them out of domestic work, says Mrs. Maeme R. Brock, secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley (Negro) branch of the Young Women's Christian Association. Household employment carries no such security.

Hours are another deterring factor. "In plants, as elevator operators, as waitresses, these women have more time to themselves," says Mrs. Brock. "They have been used to getting off at 4:30 or 5 p.m. and having the whole evening for their leisure. If they work in a home and have to wash dinner dishes before they leave, it's 8 p.m. when they're through, and the evening is half gone before they get home."

## Opportunities Scarce

Bessie Flynn is typical of the Negro girls, formerly servants, whom war has given a taste of other work and who don't want to go back to the kitchen. Bessie became a trades helper at Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot, and made more money than she ever earned before, cutting threads off belts, putting loops on coats, wrapping blankets, etc. Laid off now, Bessie finds opportunities for Negro girls very scarce. She has been interviewed for an elevator girl's job and will take it if she's chosen, but this pays much less than her war salary.

"Domestic work is harder than anything else," Bessie says, "and the hours are too long. Most homes want you to fix breakfast, and since somebody has to be at work at 8 or 8:30, this means you get there at 7. They have dinner at 6, and if you stay to

By RHEA TALLEY

serve it and wash the dishes, you get away after 8. That's too long a day.

"No other girls I know will become servants again if they can possibly find anything else. I think hours will be shortened, anyway. The maid could prepare dinner, but not stay to serve it. Perhaps she could do the dishes the next day."

Bessie feels better equipped to do some-

Despite end of war jobs, Negro women stay unemployed rather than be maids



During war, the Negroes turned their backs on domestic work, and they'll not return till other chances are gone.

thing else, and wishes there were more chances for Negro girls here to do sewing industrially.

Those are typical reasons why the United States Employment Service has trouble getting Negro women to accept domestic work. Though the prospective employers beg for help, the prospective employees are unwilling. More Negroes are capitulating than at this time last month, however, and the Negro Division of U.S.E.S. feels that this number will grow in time. Openings in Negro businesses are limited and the turnover is small. The jobs in white stores, offices and manufacturing industries are not numerous enough to go around.

## Got 13 Calls In Day

So on a typical day last week, by 3 p.m. Mrs. Brock had received 13 requests for every type of domestic work. Wages offered ranged from \$3.50 to \$5 a day for a day's work to \$20 a week, and some housewives have offered as high as \$30 a week. The prewar average was \$8 to \$12 a week for general housework, or \$2 a day plus carfare for a day's work.

"I point out to some of these girls that domestic work doesn't pay badly, at those rates. White-collar wages have not gone up like that, and if you consider the food you get, uniforms, carfare and the fact that you needn't dress up as if you were meeting the public, and that there aren't Social Security deductions—well, some of these maids are better off than I am. During the war servants have been able to dictate their own terms."

Still, Mrs. Brock finds that many Negro women feel a loss of prestige in returning to the kitchen.

## Learn Work In Homes

Occasionally Mrs. Brock gets a complaint about a servant she has placed. This, she finds, is due to the girl's "independence." "In a war plant," she explains, "a girl has been used to working with very little supervision. If the housewife keeps after her about different things, she gets irritated and there is trouble."

Whatever irresponsibility there is among Negro servants, Mrs. Brock finds among young ex-war workers who have not had kitchen experience before. Most Negro girls learn domestic work in their own homes, helping keep house for their mothers (who probably were working) and tending brothers and sisters. "Domestic work used to be the only course for a girl when she finished high school, if she wasn't getting married. Few Negro families can afford college."

# Center to Train Cooks and Maids

Louisville, Ky.

Courier-Journal

Atlanta, Dec. 25 (AP)—A Negro training center whose aim is to turn out better cooks, maids and laundresses will be opened here within the next few months, the forerunner of proposed similar centers in other cities.

The center is sponsored by a group of Atlanta Negroes, one of whom already has been asked by Negroes in Washington and Kansas City to open centers there.

Outgrowth of 200 Atlanta Negroes' efforts to train Negro domestics, the center will reach approximately 15 classifications of employees in the lower-wage brackets—yard men, laundresses, maids, cooks and others.

## Want Fair Pay

As one of the leaders in the movement explained its purpose:

"Our people want a fair day's pay for a full day's work. We have been half-paid, it's true, but we've been half-trained or not trained at all. We want to make every job a good job."

Those are the words of Mrs. Ruby Blackburn, an employee of the Atlanta Board of Education for 17 years. Herself a maid during that time, Mrs. Blackburn says the majority of the organ-

## NEGROES PLAN JOB TRAINING

New York Times  
Atlanta Center Seeks to Improve Services of Cooks, Maids

ATLANTA, Dec. 25 (AP)—A Negro training center, the aim of which is to turn out better cooks, maids and laundresses, will be opened here within a few months, the forerunner of similar centers in other cities.

The center is sponsored by a group of Atlanta Negroes, one of whom has been asked by Negroes in Washington and Kansas City to open centers there.

There will be training for workers in about fifteen classifications in the lower-wage brackets.

Mrs. Ruby Blackburn, an employee of the Atlanta Board of Education, said of the movement:

"Our people want a fair day's pay for a full day's work. We have been half-paid, it's true, but we've been half-trained or not trained at all. We want to make every job a good job."

people "earning a decent wage, living a decent life, free of charity and feeling pride in a job well done, if only a yard man's job. Our aim is training so that higher wages can be earned, not demanded."

ization's sponsors come from the working class.

The center, eventually to be housed in a 12-story building, will offer all phases of domestic training.

A full-time laundry will be erected; a small curb market opened, "with a stall for the old Negro who may have nothing but a few walnuts to sell"; a scientific kitchen operated for training and practical purposes—they'll do catering, too.

## Will Find Jobs

"We'll even be an employment bureau," says Mrs. Blackburn. "We'll send out trained, courteous workers. When they quit, they will be required to give notice—and they'll expect notice in return. We'll keep our books balanced—expecting fairness from the employer and the employee."

There'll be reading and writing rooms, and instructors will be employed to teach illiterates to read and write.

Mrs. Blackburn said the impelling motive behind the movement was establishing "a good-will relationship between employer and employee in the field of domestic service."

"And by so doing, we'll take the zoot-suiter off the streets; abolish juvenile delinquency; educate our people against flim-flam artists and other racketeers and raise our health standards," she said.

The foregoing will be the natural result, she said, of a



# Domestic Help Scarcity To Continue in Peacetime

*The Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia*  
(This is the last in a series of articles on Georgia's postwar job problem and some of the machinery for dealing with it).

9-10-45

By HENRY LESENE,

Associated Press Staff Writer.

Any examination of the disemployment situation in Georgia naturally poses the question:

What's to become of the unskilled, low-priced workers who acquired a skill and "big money" in a war industry?

Maybe some will find a peacetime use for their new skills. Others may have to make an adjustment to a peacetime economy. Some may go to the farm.

The servant problem has been the subject of many a classic joke during the war years.

But housewives are seriously asking:

When will I get my maid back?  
When can I get a cook or a yardman?

The answer, so far as anyone can say, is: Possibly sooner or later, to some extent.

But anyone willing to say much about it at all agrees that the days of a servant in every kitchen are gone, possibly forever.

They see instead the raising of domestic service to a new level, where efficiency and ability are rewarded, both financially and by a new human relationship and understanding.

Of 400 unemployed Negro industrial workers in Atlanta questioned since Japan's surrender, only one experienced a desire to go back into domestic service.

Magazine writers who have discussed the knotty servant problem during the war unanimously agreed that the old domestic standards are gone for good.

The suggestion has been made frequently of the establishing of training schools for Negro women so that their training and ability can command higher wages.

The Atlanta Urban League recently proposed training schools for Negro servants, a work week under 60 hours, vacations and higher pay.

Even so, it is agreed that many former servants are now permanently removed from that category in the labor market. However, general economic conditions in the future undoubtedly will be a factor in the supply.

A recent survey by the U. S. Bureau of Economics in Atlanta tended to show that where the chief earner in a family enjoys relatively high wages other members of the family retire from the labor market.



# West Indians Who Helped U. S. Victory Told 'Get Out'

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

P-28-45-

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 27.—Five thousand West Indian Negro workers, imported for labor in Wisconsin industry and on farm during the war, have been given 5-day's notice to leave the country. The West Indian workers, some of whom come from Jamaica and others from the Barbados, are part of 52,000 who received a war-time admission to the United States and now are being deported abruptly.

The Sixth Ward Communist Club of Milwaukee, which organized a farewell for a number of these West Indian workers, issued a statement appealing for government consideration for these men who assisted our country well in the fight for victory.

## THEY HELPED VICTORY

"Given the most menial jobs in the main," the statement said, "these workers patiently performed their labors, feeling that they were contributing to victory. Now the employers and the government have rudely ordered them to go, giving them only five days' notice. The feeling among these workers is very bitter. Not only do they dread the future of unemployment and insecurity, but they feel that they should have been given some more time to make arrangements for leaving."

The cruelty of the government's order to the West Indian workers was emphasized in a description of the abrupt changes which the order made in their lives.

"Many of these workers formed attachments here that it is hard for them to break," the statement related. "Many married American girls. Some wish to remain for education and job training. Instead they have been dismissed summarily with hardly a thank-you for their work. Many of them feel that a great country like ours ought to be able to solve its unemployment problem, to create full employment for all American workers, and also for workers in the colonial West Indian lands whose poverty arises from American and British imperialism."

Other places in the country which welcomed these workers while the labor shortage held and are expel-

ling them rudely now that the war is over, include Camden, N. J., where the Campbell Soup Company appealed for 700 workers to unload trucks to replace West Indians who had been ordered to leave the country.

## NNC Protests Treatment Given Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Jamaican Workers to WMC Negro Congress

WASHINGTON — In a letter to War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, the National Negro Congress last week protested treatment reportedly accorded Jamaican nationals now awaiting return home after serving as war-time farm laborers in this country.

According to the NNC protest, the Jamaicans have been subjected to overcrowding, threats and intimidation, and have been denied the opportunity of becoming citizens of the United States which is accorded other friendly aliens. Referring to a letter from one of these persons now at Camp Murphy, Fla., the NNC questioned their instant removal upon cessation of hostilities from the areas in the North and East where they had worked.

**Protest Southern Injustices**  
According to the worker, the organization added, he and others of thousands who rendered valuable services to the nation are having a "terrible time here," especially as a result of contacts with the Southerners.

The Jamaican, it said further charged that approximately 9,000 of his compatriots are stationed at Camp Murphy and that conditions are so overcrowded that they have to stand in line for two and three hours to get into the mess hall.

ONLY 9,600 WEST INDIES WORKERS NOW IN UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. — West Indies agricultural workers who numbered nearly 30,000 during the summer are now down to 9,600, according to the most recent report from the Office of Labor of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Unless the program is renewed for another year, it is said that all of the West Indies workers are expected to be en route home by the end of this month.

## Blasts Treatment of Jamaicans in Florida

NEW YORK, N. Y. — The National Negro Congress here today in a strongly worded letter to the War Manpower Commissioner McNutt called upon the War Manpower Commission to take steps immediately to provide adequate civil protection and decent living conditions for Jamaican Nationals now being returned to Jamaica after wartime work in American factories and on American farms.

At the same time, the NNC revealed the partial contents of a letter from a Jamaican who worked in Milwaukee during the war and who has been stationed for the last three weeks in Camp Murphy, Fla., awaiting shipping space to return him to his home. The worker revealed that there had been racial disturbances and threats of killings provoked by white-supremacist Southerners. Further, that because of overcrowding at the camp, mess-hall lines were two and three hours long.

The Congress also urged that Jamaican workers be accorded the same rights and privileges as all other aliens to adjust their status and become citizens if they so desire, especially those who are married to American citizens.

## 16,000 Jamaican Farm Workers Public Opinion The National Daily In U.S. Industries Homeward Bound Soon

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.— Recruiting of foreign labour has been halted and approximately 178,000 workers now in the United States will be returned to their homelands by the end of the year, a War Manpower Commission official said to-day.

Workers were imported on a contract basis to alleviate shortages in railroads, war plants, and on farms.

Sixteen thousand Jamaicans now working in war industries will be returned as soon as replacements where needed may be found.

War Food Administration

officials also said more than 30,000 Jamaicans, Bahamians, Newfoundlanders, Hondurans, and West Indians, or from other Colonies, will begin their homeward trek as soon as the crops are harvested.—Canapress

## Bermuda's Negro Workers Organize

HAMILTON, Bermuda — (AP) — Bermuda's Negro workers are organizing under the leadership of a Caucasian-featured West Indian doctor who tells them they have not been fairly treated.

Dr. E. F. Gordon, a native of Trinidad, formed a group of a few hundred workers at the United States Navy Base two years ago when the Navy reduced their pay at the request of the Bermuda Labor Board—a wartime institution. He told the workers there was no reason they should get less pay than American workers doing the same jobs.

With that small nucleus Dr. Gordon formed the Bermuda Workers' Association, a body which under existing laws has no legal standing. Technically the police could have arrested the entire group the first time they met, because the local Criminal Code provides that large assemblages are illegal. But the authorities made no attempt to interfere.

Now the organization claims 2,000 members, and Dr. Gordon announces that he intends to increase membership to 5,000 by the end of the year.

At a recent meeting the doctor bitterly attacked two labor laws recently passed by the Legislature. One proposed to continue the labor board as a peace-time body, ostensibly to benefit the workers but Dr. Gordon charges its actual effect is to maintain capital's control over wages. The other set up arbitration tribunals to settle labor disputes, but the English-trained doctor argues that without legislation empowering labor to organize, the measure is simply a mockery of the workman's helplessness.

## U.S. Farms Have Less Than 5000 Jamaicans

WASHINGTON — The number of Jamaicans employed on farms in this country has been reduced from a peak of 22,000 to 4,444, the Office of Labor of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. The others have returned home or are awaiting repatriation. Jamaican farm workers remaining in this country are employed principally in Florida and Connecticut. Bahamian farm workers in this country number 3,900.

Political

**West Indians Terrorized In Fla.**By **VENICE T. SPRAGGS**  
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON— The Nazi-like treatment accorded West Indian laborers awaiting repatriation at Camp Murphy, Florida, was revealed in a letter made available to the Defender this week.

Brought into the United States under a contractual arrangement between the British government and the War Manpower Commission acting for the United States government, some 16,000 Jamaican, Barbadoes, and Bahamian workers whose labor is no longer needed here are being shipped back home. Camp Murphy is the chief repatriation center.

The letter, written by a former assistant camp manager at Camp Billy Mitchell Field, Milwaukee, Wis., was sent to fellow workers and warned "Do, do, for God sake, tell the rest of men that its a friendly advice I am giving them before coming to this camp ask to be sent to the worst jail in America."

Describing the camp as "hell" the writer declared "if you are tough as iron you would cry over conditions in this camp."

Written a few days following the recent riot at the camp in which numbers of the workers were severely injured the writer implored "tell the others before they come down here strike and go even to prison, for you will not loose your life in prison, but its only God can save you here."

Local authorities attributed the flare up to a resentment on the part of the workers to being returned to their homes to face again low pay, and poor living standards.

**No Information Given**

Although there is a WMC representative attached to the camp to date the agency has released no information on the riot although it is reliably learned that they are fully apprised of all the details.

In one quarter it is said that WMC is hopeful that all of the workers will be shipped out before full knowledge of the situation is obtained by the public.

There are indications that WMC officials are seeking to wipe their hands clean of the whole affair disclaiming any further responsibility for these foreign workers. However under the arrangements through which they originally were brought in, there are many who feel that the commission has a responsibility which ceases only when these men are properly repatriated and under conditions conducive to their orderly transfer and personal safety.

At the time of the riot there

were some 3,500 men in the camp awaiting transportation facilities. The author of the letter described the conditions under which they lived as follows:

"The police, them just come and order the boys to kneel down, and strike them in their heads with their batin."

He said, "One of our real nice boys, Rupert Johnson, was laying in bed during the riot, and was ordered by police to get up, and because he did not jump fast, they hit him in the head with the batin, and break his head, but its not very serious."

**Shot at Like Birds**

Describing still another incident, he continued, "Worst of all—a fellow that came along with us this evening was trying to get something for his bed (as all of us did) and somehow he was fired at with a revolver which must have gone through his shirt sleeve, and was well battined and taken to the hospital without even seeing the barrack he was going to stop in."

The writer indicated he was exercising extreme caution for his own personal safety. He said, "I won't go outside for they are trying to take the men for birds." He added, "The police told the men that they hate them more than the Japs and show them the machine guns, also hoping for a chance to mow them down."

Remorseful, he told his friends, "Its cruel to see we have played such a part in this their war (for we never had what to fight for) and now these are the treatment we get in return."

Then with a bit of homespun philosophy he concluded, "Anyway, I can only say, God bless this wonderful race, and help them to know that—the small stones that fill the crevices are as essential to the firm wall as the large ones—and so are races."

There still remains in the United States some 9,000 West Indian workers who must go through Camp Murphy under similar conditions.

Any workers who refuse to go through this center as directed will be picked up by the immigration authorities, but some feel they would be assured a more safe conduct to their homes, finally.

Recently Bindley C. Cyrus, Chicago attorney, and president of the American West Indian Welfare Association, and Joseph R. Alvarenga, first vice president, also of Chicago, paid a visit to the British Embassy here, urging the British government to take whatever steps possible to slow-up transfer of West Indian workers until adequate transportation can be obtained.

Here in Washington, eyes are turning to the Foreign Labor Section of the War Manpower Com-

mission of which J. Dewey Coates is chief to see what moves that office is going to make on behalf of these workers who are in the United States by arrangement of his office.



# Jamaica Workers In The U.S.A.

*Public Opinion, The National Daily - 8-21-45  
Kingston, Jamaica*

By Hubert Brown

(CONCLUDED)

Two weeks before this was written a fight took place at the Solvay camp. At first there were only two boys involved. But a would-be peace-maker intervened. The result was that the two who had agreed to indulge in an inter-change of blows spent a night in jail, and the would-be peace-maker will return to his loved ones, if he does return, minus one finger. The police have not yet discovered the person or persons who relieved him of his precious digit.

There are now some 23,000 farm workers in the United States. The lot of the farm or agricultural workers is in some respects different from that of the factory worker. While the factory worker is engaged in making anything from candies to guns, the farm worker is confined to the production of food. In-

variably he lives in a camp as near to the place of his employment as possible. Like the factory worker, he must secure a pass before he is allowed to leave his camp for any reason whatsoever. Within the ranks of these boys, who, for the most part, are drawn from the rural areas, is to be found a certain element who have no scruples about indulging in certain practices that do no credit to any people at any time. The writer hastens to point out that this is also true of the factory workers, but in a lesser degree. Outrageous brawls do sometimes take place; for these are men, a certain proportion of them still callow, subject to the primordial weaknesses of humankind, for the time being bereft of the stabilizing influence of the opposite sex.

The earnings of the factory workers are prodigious as compared with those to

which they have been accustomed. They earn from 40 dollars to as much as 70 dollars per week. 10.75 dollars is deducted for food. Then there is the Social Security Tax and the Withholding Tax to be reckoned with, also union dues already referred to. How a portion of the worker's earnings is sent home and deposited to his dependents, are too well known here to be recapitulated.

The farm worker, on the average, earns less than the factory worker; but there is an instance recorded where a farm worker, doing piece-work, drove himself so unremittingly that in two weeks his earnings totalled a little over 200 dollars. In the interest of the worker's health the employer perforce put a stop to this excess of zeal.

What language do Jamaicans speak? Unbelievable as it may seem, that is the question some Americans ask when for the first time

they come face to face with the United States for a year. Jamaicans, resident or two, is only with difficulty ing in the United States understood by a large portion of the American the incident reported in the citizenry. His accent is in-daily papers how, after the deed music to the ear of his arrival in New Jersey of the compatriot who has not seen first group of Jamaicans his native land for upwards brought to work on the of ten years; but the American farms, interpreters had to call "cute."

charge. For, you see, some When a complete list of of these boys have at the the causes of dissatisfaction tips of their tongues words within the ranks of these not to be found in any dictionary, nor are such words search in vain for dullness taught in any school. The or ennui. On national holidays they are encouraged to pit their best cricketers against the best eleven that can be mustered by West Indian islands where cricket is played. True, the visitors seldom win. But the object is not to allow them to win, but to give them a day's entertainment. They are feted whenever possible, and dances are held for their special benefit.

At Syracuse an altercation between two boys was taking place. An American official stood close by, listening attentively, a puzzled expression on his face. Presently he asked, "What language is he speaking?" Some mischievous bystander told him it was Spanish. A few days later, the American, having marked that what he had been told was Spanish was used only when the boys were angry or excited, began to experience the humiliating feeling that his leg was being pulled. So he went to the police. The police, after some investigation, reported to the official that what he had been listening to was nothing but "Jamaica bad words." 8-21-45

It is, however, a fact established beyond question, that the Jamaican, especially if he is from a country district, until he has lived in

Reverting to the educational aspect hinted at in the beginning of this effort, these boys in very truth have come to the greatest university in the world. They quickly discover that they must unlearn many things in order that they might learn other things. Most of them at first give the impression of being countrified and clumsy. However, almost without exception, they soon acquire a deportment that



stamps them as deeply appreciative of what goes forward round about them, and evince a remarkable aptitude for absorbing ideas new and broadening. When they return to their native land they must inevitably be the richer for having come. Some of them like the United States; some do not. Some would like to return; some would not. Some are entranced; some are disillusioned. But all have tasted experiences not otherwise to be had. 8-21-45

The factory worker sees and does things which heretofore he has only heard of, or read of. He treads for a little way the path that leads to the sanctum of Technology. The farm worker gathers knowledge of crop cultivation, from which, if he is wise, he will select as much as is applicable to his own modest plot when he returns home. So, the island as a whole cannot but profit by these boys' visit here.

—END.

# JAMAICA WORKERS IN *Public Opinion The National Daily* THE U.S.A.

8-20-45

By HUBERT BROWN

*Kingston Jamaica*

Within the ranks of those Jamaicans who have been brought to the United States by two agencies of the Federal Government, a sort of education now is in progress.

A group of men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five has been assembled and welded together to form a heterogeneous entity satisfactorily representative of Jamaica's youngest manhood. In America they are called boys, so as boys they shall hereinafter be referred to.

Chosen first of all for their physique, they are, in the main, endowed with splendidly formed bodies, perfect in all their parts; not all giants, to be sure, but wherever bulk is lacking is to be found a compensating celerity of movement. Varied, too, have been their taste of education. There are those who can barely sign their names, and those who will eagerly undertake to point out the flaws in Darwin's theory.

They arrive at various ports, are split up into different groups, entrained with military expedition and with almost as much secrecy as that attendant upon the movement of combat troops.

There are two classes of workers, namely: Factory workers, under the aegis of the War Manpower Commission, and farm workers, under that of the War Food Administration. The relationship existing between these two classes is as clearly defined as is that between the skilled artisan and the common labourer. Due partly to war conditions and partly to the increased power of the labour unions, the factory worker, especially the highly skilled, now holds, in an economic sense, a position superior to that of the so-called white-collar worker, and those Jamaicans assigned to factory work are benefited thereby. They are employed under the prevailing union conditions, which means that they are paid union wages and are required to pay union dues, though not eligible for membership in the union in the jurisdiction of which they happen to be employed. For the present I will confine myself to this type of worker.

In some cases the factory worker lives in a camp; in other cases he lives alone or with a family, who frequently, are relatives of his. This latter situation is brought about either by carelessness, fully, planned and boldly executed desertion, or by negotiations between the proper agency of the U. S. Government and the employer. With

regard to desertions, no accurate figure is available, but it is well known that a considerable number have embraced this bold venture. The head porter at the Sol-And the Government appears not to be meeting with much success in apprehending them. But the real account- ing will come when they attempt to return home.

Syracuse, with a population of 175,000, is the fourth city in population in the State of New York. It is about 450 miles from New York City. It is noted for the number and diversity of its industrial establishments. Outstanding is the Solvay Process Company's works, manufacturing soda ash and other products. In common with all of America's giant industrial units, this company is, for the duration of the war, engaged in the production of war material. There are assigned to factory work in Syracuse more than eight hundred workers from Jamaica. These boys are apportioned among the Solvay Company, General Electric and another company called the Carrier Company. The boys work in three shifts. Some of them operate complicated and dangerous machines, some work as labourers. The minimum rate of pay is 83 cents per hour for the standard 40-hour week. The boys may do overtime work, if they so desire, receiving the statutory pay at the rate of time and one-half for each hour worked over forty hours. The living quarters are airy and commodious, and a representative of the Government is present

at all times to see that sanitary regulations are enforced. Each boy is required to make his own bed every day, but the head porter at the Sol-And the Government appears not to be meeting with much success in apprehending them. But the real account- ing will come when they attempt to return home.

Since most of the boys work only five days each week, there is at their disposal ample time for recreation. Under the head of outdoor sports cricket is first in popularity, with football second. A few of the boys make a pretense at playing tennis. Indoors they are provided with billiards, cards, draughts, radios and pianos. Some of the boys have brought from their homes various portable musical instruments such as guitars, violins, accordians and flutes. Inevitably, gambling is indulged in, despite the efforts of the authorities to prevent it. This is the chief cause of

occasional outbursts of violence that sometimes necessitate resort to the power of the police.



# Jamaica Farm Workers

*Public Opinion*  
in <sup>6-4-45</sup> America

The High Reputation Of

Our Boys  
Their Services Still Needed--  
<sup>6-7-43</sup>  
Those in Industry Given  
Shorter Contracts

By FRANK HILL now at San Francisco  
NEW YORK, May 26

I took time out of the UNCIO at San Francisco this week to look over some of the camps where our farm workers are stationed. Herbert MacDonald should have come over from Washington to go around with me, but he couldn't make it at the last moment because of some urgent consultations with Washington officials over changes that have arisen with the end of the war in Europe.

Reggie Somerville took me around the camps in Long Island, about 60 miles from the city. We went first to King's Park where 155 of our boys live. Fortunately, the State Health Officer, Hurley, was just about to make his weekly inspection so we joined the party.

## Strict Health Law

New York State Health Laws are neither simple nor easy-going. An hour's walk around the camp with Hurley showed that their administration is as rigid as steel. I saw Hurley pick out a chipped cup from among several dozen and condemn it. The camp manager squirmed silently. I smiled sympathetically, but gave Hurley an inward cheer. Utensils, sinks, ventilation, refrigerators, garbage—Hurley went through them with swift efficiency. The Camp janitor, a slim Jamaican boy, whispered to me that Hurley did that every week. <sup>6-4-45</sup>

Then we went through the sanitary arrangements. No

well-kept home in Jamaica maintained a better bathroom. Upstairs where the boys slept in double-deck beds, you got a good idea of the character of each occupant. Most of them were as tidy as a fussy spinster. A few were disordered, but it was the healthy disorder of the Jamaican male who is generally accustomed to have a woman make up his room for him.

## Home Touch

An appreciative laugh went around us at the sight of a gaudy, embroidered bedspread, a bowl of fresh lilies and the pictures of part-Chinese girl set so that she beamed a pretty smile at the man as he lay in bed.

There were large portable stoves in the dormitories, two

urinals on the landings outside at either end. There could be no cause for complaint about sleeping quarters.

The way to a Jamaican's heart is via his stomach. So I went back to kitchen, examined the food stocks. I've been here five weeks now. I've travelled 7,000 miles across the continent. I don't know the exact cause, but I know there's a food shortage on. But you wouldn't believe it when you look in the refrigerators at King's Park.

I saw 9 large hams, hunks of beef, pork, mutton, several dressed chickens, ducks, turkeys, huge slabs of butter and cheese. I felt hungry at the sight. Later I met the chief cook, a Jamaican named Grant. He was a child's dream of the typical *French Chef*. His round face smiled happily as he wisecracked in the best American fashion. <sup>6-4-45</sup>

## BOYS AMBITIOUS

After lunch we went out to two farms where some of the boys were working. I talked with two of them. There was Franklin Anthony who worked on John Beck's 400-acre farm. Anthony was from Cedar Valley but lived 13 years in Kingston before coming here last year. He has been living on the farm since last winter in a well-furnished room equipped with electric lights, running water, radio and stove.

Anthony grinned broadly most of the time, told me he had started studying radio engineering, but shifted to salesmanship. He was taking it by correspondence course from a Chicago school. Not for him the land when he came home. There wasn't enough in it for him. He was going to be a salesman.

Did he like it out here? Of course! He was well treated by the farmer and his wife. Sometimes it was cold, like

during the last winter; but he was getting accustomed to it now and the weather was getting warm. And at other times he got a little homesick. But he was studying hard to get a good job when he went home.

About five miles away was another farm run by Joseph Mish in St. James County. I talked to Uriah Henry there. He was also from St. Thomas. He had started radio engineering. We had a lively discussion on radio in postwar Jamaica. There was no mistaking Henry's eagerness for the opportunity of improving himself out here.

I enquired about wages. The boys are paid 55 cents per hour for picking vegetables, 6½ cents per bushel for picking up potatoes, with an extra ½ cent when they have to load them in the carts or trucks. This works out at an average of \$50 per week, working 10 hours a day. <sup>6-4-45</sup>

## INDUSTRY UNSETTLED

All told there are 20,000 farm workers in the U.S. scattered over 25 states. In addition, 8,000 boys are in industry, working for standard wages and allowed to join the usual unions. The farm workers, however, are not unionised since there are no unions in the north or middle west for agricultural workers.

The end of the war in Europe has made the boys in industry unsettled. I saw an Administration order instructing all defence plants to cancel their contracts with "foreign workers" and sign new ones for a shorter term. This is done in view of the current reconversion to peacetime industry and the need to absorb several thousand soldiers into civilian life.

FARM WORKERS WILL REMAIN

But farm workers will not be affected. I learn that there will be need for our boys right up to the end of the war in Asia, perhaps beyond.

And its a high reputation our boys have made for themselves. Time and again I heard comparison made between them and the coloured Americans and every time our boys were put way ahead.

## JAMAICANS QUICK TO LEARN

John Beck told me that he found them quick to learn, with plenty of initiative and good—tempered. He found it difficult to believe that Jamaicans were unaccustomed to handling machines. "They're so quick," he said, "just as if they grew up in an industrial country."

There was another camp at Port Jefferson that was being prepared to house 155 workers. It was formerly used as a hospital. Its only drawback was the concrete floors downstairs. Reggie Somerville advised the camp manager to spread cloth bags over them or the boys wouldn't stop complaining. The manager promised to do so. <sup>6-4-45</sup>

Another camp at Peconic was an old dance hall, with a capacity of 140. That at Greenport would house 130, while 50 more would live with private persons. I didn't see these camps, but if they're anything like King's Park and Port Jefferson, our boys will be all right.

## 134 Bahamans Arrive For Peach Harvest

Charlottesville, Va., July 27 (Spl.).—Negro laborers from the Bahamas Islands yesterday began picking peaches in the Crozet area, Eugene Durette, emergency farm labor assistant, announced today.

The peach harvest is expected to reach its peak the first 12 days of August, slightly earlier than usual, due to the warm spring, Mr. Durette said. The peak, first predicted to begin July 25, was retarded by the cool, dry weather.

The 134 Bahaman pickers and four cooks arrived Tuesday night by bus, trains being unavailable, from North Carolina peach orchards. They are quartered in the same camp at Crozet that the Bahamans occupied last year.



Barbados Czars Bemoan  
*Chicago Defender* 7-28-45  
Native Exodus To U.S.  
*Chic. Ill.*

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados Islands —(ANP)—Importation by the United States of laborers from Barbados to help out in war plants and on farms during the current manpower shortage were vigorously criticized before the legislative council here, by J. D. Chandler. He said Barbados needed its own workers, that there were estates in the island with as many acres waiting to be reaped as had already been harvested. He said these estates could not find adequate labor.

The colonial secretary replied by saying that there were only 5,000 Barbadian laborers sent to the United States. He said there were still plenty of workers to harvest the cane crops at home but that the planters had been accustomed to having a great surplus of labor to handle as they saw fit.

Meanwhile, a day later, John D. Coates, head of the foreign labor section of the War Manpower commission of the U. S., in a speech before the local press, said that Barbadian workers in the ammunition plants and canning factories had played an important part in saving food and furthering the war. There are about 37,000 West Indian workers altogether in the USA, he said.

**Return Of 30,000 Jamaican Workers From U.S. Will Mean £3,400,000 A Year Loss To Island**

*Public Opinion*  
By A. E. T. HENRY  
*Kingston, Jamaica*

If, according to rumours the 30,000 farm and factory workers, now in the United States, all return within the next twelve months, it will mean a loss to the island of some £3,400,000 per annum in remittances both voluntary and compulsory.

8-23-45

Since January and up to the end of July the Gen Post Office handled £823,543. in voluntary remittances from these workers and it is expected that the figure for August — generally the peak month — will be at least £300,000. Thus by the end of August voluntary remittances will have totalled £1,123,543. It is estimated that the Post Office will have handled not less than £1,600,000 by the end of the year.

£1,083,074 UP TO JULY  
Since the beginning of the year and up to end of July, the Government Savings Bank had handled £1,083,074 in compulsory savings. Another £250,000 at least should come in during August, bringing the total to the end of August to £1,333,074. By the end of the year the total handled by the Savings Bank should be in the vicinity of at least £1,800,000.

Thus the Savings Bank and the General Post Office between them will have accounted for £3,400,000 by the end of the year.

In the light of the reports of the sudden and rapid increase of unemployment in the United States of America, most people are inclined to the view that by the middle of next winter most, if not all Jamaican workers will have returned

**CONSIDERABLE PORTION SPENT**

Not only will three and a half million sterling invisible export be lost to the island; the country will have to find employment for an additional 30,000 men. And it is problematical whether many of these men will be able to start small businesses, agricultural or commercial, since first a considerable proportion of their remittances has already been spent in the dry goods, furniture and provision shops; and, secondly, such sum as will still be in their hands might be too small for a worthwhile start in life.

**Start Back 83,000 Mexican And West Indian Workers**  
*The St. Louis Argus*

*St. Louis, Missouri 7-1-75*

WASHINGTON — A program designed to speed the return of foreign workers, including 16,000 West Indians now employed in the United States to their homes at the earliest possible moment has been put into effect in each of the War Manpower Commission's twelve regional offices, Paul V. McNutt, WMC chairman, announced this week.

The new policy will govern all foreign workers except Mexicans employed by railroads and a decision regarding the status of the latter is expected to be reached at a conference today between representatives of railroads, labor organizations and WMC, Mr. McNutt said.

9-7-45

Of the 83,000 foreign workers recruited, 67,000 were brought from Mexico, to fill vacancies on American railroads, and 16,000 were brought from Barbados, Jamaica and British Honduras for work in eastern and midwestern industries. The Jamaicans and Barbadians entered the United States as civilian workers under provisions of Public Laws 229 and 373 and through contract with their governments, which did not entail personal bond. The Mexicans entered the United States under personal contracts and personal bond of \$500.

**'Jersey Board' Apologizes For Its Stupidity**

**East Rutherford Board of Education States That It Was Unfair To Jamaicans**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N. J.—The East Rutherford Board of Education last week executed a complete about face on its prejudgment of Negro Jamaican laborers at the Flintkote Company plant and praised them as a splendid group of men.

In a resolution passed at the last meeting, and made public, the Board extends its apologies to the men: "With the sincere hope that the Board will be forgiven for having judged them incorrectly."

Referring to a resolution adopted last January 30, protesting the importation of about 100 male workers from the island of Jamaica, as constituting a serious and immediate hazard to the moral and physical safety of the community and its inhabitants, which the new resolution repealed, the Board stated: "This Board feels that our resolution of January 30 has done a grave injustice to the Jamaican workers who actually did arrive in our borough subsequent to its adoption, for the reason that said workers have been, in every way, a social and moral credit to themselves and also to the inhabitants of the Island of Jamaica."

**West Indies Workers Set For Harvest**

*Amsterdam News*  
Compose Over 10 Percent Of Workers Who'll Travel Long Distances This Year

West Indies workers make up more than 10 per cent of the workers who will travel long distances this year to help with the Nation's crops, the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates.

A total of 239,000 people are expected to join the migratory trek this year and travel from the South and Southwest to the North and West. Of this number—which does not include those who work from farm to farm in the same State—48,000 are domestic workers, 27,000 Jamaicans and Bahamians, 62,000 Mexicans, 1,000 Newfoundland, and 100,000 prisoners of war.

Jamaicans, who number more than 20,000, are working mainly in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Wisconsin, California, and Florida, where they are harvesting fruits and vegetables and working in sugar cane. The Bahamians are harvesting fruits, vegetables and peanuts in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Florida.



# Amazing Jamaica Labor Boss Stages Blitz At Polls, Becomes Dictator

By GEORGE PADMORE  
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON.—From Stock Exchange gambler to loan shark to labor leader and Jamaica's political dictator is the amazing story of big, blustering Alexander Bustamante, boss of the island's all-powerful Labor Party.

Aided by the adoption of a new constitution which gave suffrage to all Jamaicans over 21 years of age, Bustamante made good his pre-election boast that his party would stage a "blitz" at the polls during the country's recent elections. The Labor Party elected 23 of 32 members to the house of representatives. 2-3-45

Bustamante, a trade unionist with capitalistic leanings, used Machivellian tactics to secure his position as a dictator among his plebian fellow country-men. The fact that he was on the government "blacklist" as a loan shark, exploiting the poorly paid civil workers in Jamaica didn't deter Bustamante when the opportunity arose for him to step to the front as a champion of the laboring classes.

## Becomes A Martyr

Demonstrating the aplomb with which he gambled on the New York Stock Exchange, and won enough to return to Jamaica and set up his money-lending business, Bustamante championed the cause of striking Kingston dockworkers and agricultural laborers who revolted against their intolerable working conditions in 1938—and landed in jail.

Not, however, before he had succeeded in obtaining increased wages and improved conditions for the workers. 2-3-45

His "martyrdom" to their cause made Bustamante a national hero among Jamaica's masses. Quick to exploit his popularity, Bustamante organized a number of trade unions, each bearing his name. He elected himself president for life of each of his seven unions now operating throughout the islands and usurped the right to appoint and dismiss all officers.

The dictator's legendary career includes service in the Spanish army in Morocco, and a stint as a trade union leader in Cuba several years ago. His prowess as a spell-binding orator making lavish promises of granting all things in heaven and earth to the down-trodden masses and peasants who have never had an opportunity to participate in Jamaica's political affairs, are held to be largely responsible for Bustamante's tremendous popularity. 2-3-45

## One-Man Dictatorship

After the workers won their initial victories in 1939, Norman Man-

ley, one of the most brilliant West Indian barristers and an Oxford Rhodes scholar, along with other middle-class intellectuals offered their services to Bustamante and he newly organized trade unions.

For a time a working agreement was effected but Bustamante, intoxicated by his power over the masses, took matters into his own hands, expelled all democratic elements from the unions and set up

his one-man dictatorship over the organizations.

Faced with these conditions, Manley gathered around him the more politically advanced workers and formed the People's National Party, democratically controlled and operated. This party adopted a local "Beveridge Plan" advocating agrarian reforms, slum clearance, improved educational and medical services. 2-3-45

## Popular With Masses

Commenting on the elections the London Times observed: "Bustamante's reputation for constructive statesmanship is yet to be won, but no one in Jamaica can equal his power over a popular audience."

"He has shown his capacity as an organizer by building up the trade unions which bear his name and charges of autocracy have in no way diminished his hold on his followers."

"A more balanced element in the new House will be provided by the handful of members of the People's National Party, but it has suffered a severe loss in the defeat by a narrow margin of its leader, N. W. Manley who has an admirable record of public service and has done more than any Jamaican to educate his fellow citizens in political realities." 2-3-45

Speaking of his party's success at the polls, Bustamante said: "I shall at all times, along with my colleagues, investigate the possibilities of improving the economic and social conditions of labor in every way without destruction to the country or to any section of it."

Labor's sweeping victory gave a seat to the first woman ever elected to the house when Miss Iris Collins polled more votes than all her opponents together in the St. James Northwest district.

SANTA ROSA, CALIF.  
PRESS DEMOCRAT  
Cir. D. 8,972 — S. 8,972

MAY 27 1945

## Jamaica Negroes Imported to Aid County Harvests

Husky Jamaica negroes will help harvest Sebastopol fruit crops this year.

The War Food Administration division of labor reported this week that 100 of the dark-skinned islanders are due to arrive the middle of next week, under an order by the Employers' Labor Association of Sebastopol.

They will work in apple-thinning and in cherry-picking as well as in harvest of apples later in the summer under WFA-announced plans.

Subjects of Great Britain, the colored workers speak English, for the most part with a pronounced British accent. They are being brought here to supplement Mexican nationals, of whom 700 are in the county at present and for whom orders have been filed for 3,000.

They must be housed separately from Mexican workers, with housing requirements paralleling those for the lads from south of the border.

Although Jamaicans have been used extensively in many U. S. agricultural areas, this will be their initial introduction to Sonoma county farms and orchards.

## No Negro Fruit Workers Wanted In La Habra, Calif.

LOS ANGELES. (ANP)—Because of the presence of Jamaican fruit workers in La Habra, Calif., the chamber of commerce recently passed a resolution directed to Citrus Growers Inc., protesting the presence of the Negro workers within the city limits.

Reasons given for this action were the assertion that "seeing large groups of Negroes on the streets would give the town a bad name," and the alleged complaints by local

merchants that some of the newcomers were insolent. 6-30-45

Exactly what the leading citizens of La Habra fear is not quite evident. The police stated that there have been no riots or near-riots, no outbreaks of violence, not even any incidents of disorderly conduct.

## Southerners Blamed

Members of the chamber of commerce have thrown light on the motivation of the resolution by stating that there is a great deal of race prejudice in the town caused by the fact that many southerners have moved into that area.

last week. 8-6-45

The recruited workers are paid only 50 cents an hour by the packing firm, but their actual wages are considerably reduced by deductions for U. S. income tax, British "saving" tax, social security tax, and a charge of \$9 a week for board and room. Besides this, it is charged, their living quarters are bad and the food of poor quality.

When they called a strike re-

## Citizenship Status Denied to Imported War Workers

NEW YORK.—The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born will challenge the interpretation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service under which Jamaicans, Mexicans, and other imported war-contracted laborers are denied equal rights with other aliens in the United States.

The committee stated that the I. and N. Service refuses to permit these laborehs to change their citizenship status, even when they are married to Americans, whereas other aliens are granted this right. Baltimore Md.

It points out that in 1942, the U. S. Government concluded contracts with several Western Hemisphere governments for the importation of workers to overcome the serious wartime shortage in manpower in this country.

## Some Want to Stay

About 250,00 workers have come here from the Bahamas, Barbados, British Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and Newfoundland, 150,000 of whom have returned to their homes. Of the 100,000 still here, the majority came from Mexico (74,365) and Jamaica (15,487).

While the average worker wants to return home when his contract expires, as provided for, some have married American citizens; others wish to remain as students, and to live and work here—but the I. and N. Service rules that they must return home.

## Workers from Barbadoes Lose Faith in U.S. Democracy

SALISBURY, Md. — Three hundred workers from the Barbadoes islands who eagerly accepted jobs with the Phillips Packing Co. here, hoping to escape the segregation and unemployment they had suffered in the Caribbean, have been sadly disillusioned, it was reported

cently, protesting these conditions, the company immediately ordered out the police and sent for a British liaison officer to arbitrate the dispute. The company is confident it will win the arbitration, according to the report, for under their contract terms, the Barbadoes cannot be employed in the U. S. except by the Phillips Co.

## 600 Jamaicans Ending Md. Work

Baltimore, Nov. 7 (AP).—A wartime emergency farm labor experiment drew to an end this week as approximately 600 Jamaicans tracts with several Western Hemisphere governments for the importation of workers to overcome the serious wartime shortage in manpower in this country.

The Jamaicans are the last of a foreign labor shipment, arranged by treaty by the United States, that included approximately 900 Bahamians and 1600 Jamaicans. When they finish husking, the remaining wartime-imported workers will return to camps to await the homeward voyage.

Renewal of the project, which has operated for three war years, appears "uncertain," said Paul E. Nystrom, State supervisor of the emergency farm labor program.



# Jamaican Workers Break Through Repression

*Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.*  
SINCE the war against fascism many thou-

sands of workers from Jamaica have been brought to this country to help labor here keep industry and agriculture moving. From time to time there have appeared in the press of this country news items showing the unsatisfactory conditions under which these workers have labored.

Many of them are working in the agricultural fields of New Jersey. Thousands have gone directly into basic industry in various states. There are about 5,000 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, foundries. There are several thousands in Connecticut war plants. There are thousands in and around Boston.

All told there are about 30,000 Jamaican workers in the United States. In Milwaukee they publish a bulletin called **The Jamaican Worker**, a copy of which I have just received.

All too little attention has been given by American workers to the welfare and working conditions of these brothers from Jamaica. Living conditions for them in New Jersey have been and perhaps still are intolerable. In industry, while they receive standard wages, they reportedly suffer from Jimcrow practices. For example in Connecticut, AFL union leaders condone or do nothing to combat the practice.

In order that American workers can be familiar with the background of these workers I want to outline briefly the tradition of struggle of the labor movement in Jamaica itself.

IN 1939 a general strike took place in Jamaica which resulted in the organization of the Industrial Trade Union (called BITU), headed by Alexander Bustamante. It was maintained until 1941 as the only hope of the trade union movement in Jamaica. The people had little previous tradition of trade union organization. They maintained their cohesion through their personal loyalty to Bustamante.

Then appeared the People's National Party (PNP) and through its influence a movement for democracy in the trade unions began. This was a protest against the leadership of Bustamante who had begun to show dictatorial methods.

This new movement was the offspring of a minority in the BITU. Groups were set up in various industries, including the Street Car and Transport Workers, and Printers. Smaller groups were organized among the United Clerks Association and the Trade Union Council, an independent and almost inactive organization.

In 1942 Bustamante carried on a vigorous campaign to destroy these new unions. In the

by James W. Ford

same year the Jamaica Government Employees Union, the Postal and Telegraph Workers Union and the Public Works Employees Union were created.

In the meantime, the influence of the People's National Party grew and the government began to take repressive measures against the leaders. Several of them were placed in concentration camps and the Public Works Union was declared illegal. Public meetings were prohibited and restrictions placed on political activities. But the plans of the government failed to dampen the ardor of the leaders and the workers.

THE UNION COUNCIL was reorganized and has 27 affiliated organizations. The Union Council represents the greater part of the organized members of the Jamaica Trade Union movement. And around it is being organized a united labor federation.

The influence of Bustamante has been weakened by the organization of the Port Workers League which has attracted 20 percent of the Port workers who formerly belonged to Bustamante's union. Bustamante's influence is still strong among the cane cutters on the sugar plantations.

The **Jamaican Worker**, published here at Milwaukee, is a five-page bulletin. Its first issue has articles on "We Look to San Francisco," "Jamaicans Pay Tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt," "West Indians Fight In Burma," "Report from Home," "Why You Need the Union," "Church Services" and other articles on local trade union and work problems. The issue is dated May 1, 1945.

Prosperous life to the **Jamaican Worker**,  
**HARTFORD, CONN.**  
**COURANT**  
Circ. D. 47,872 - S. 80,138

**Pianos Are  
Wanted For  
Plantations**

**12 Needed for Tobacco  
Recreation Program  
Among Negroes**

"We need about 12 usable pianos for our tobacco workers," Alfred W. Lincoln, general director, said Saturday as he explained the religious and recreational program arranged this year for the Jamaicans and Southern Negroes working on Connecticut Valley tobacco farms.

"If you've ever heard these fel-

lows sing, you'll know how much we need pianos," he declared. "Telephone us at 7-2173, and a truck will pick up your piano."

Sponsored jointly by the Connecticut Council of Churches, whose representative is assistant secretary Rev. J. Oscar Lee, and the Connecticut Shade Tobacco Growers Agricultural Association, Inc., with Ralph C. Masbury, Jr., as cooperating director, the recreational program is getting under way for its eleventh season.

A total of about 2500 workers in 27 different camps, nine for Southern Negroes and 18 for Jamaicans, will be cared for by the committee this year, said Mr. Lincoln. The committee does not, however, serve the white boys and girls brought here from other states, he asserted. They are cared for under the University of Connecticut Extension services.

Tobacco workers are especially interested in group singing. Mr. Lincoln continued, and several take advantage of the weekly music lessons offered by the committee. Such musical training may lead to an opportunity to broadcast or to sing in local churches, and to take part in the "big sing" in the fall.

Other forms of recreation offered by the committee include games like ping pong, checkers, dominoes, horseshoe pitching, basket ball foul shooting and baseball throwing for accuracy. Camp winners in these games will compete at a big meet the late summer for championship of all the camps. Last year, championship contests were held at the Hartman Tobacco Company plantations on Blue Hills Avenue extension. Wendell F. Hawkins, Wethersfield, an information and recreation center for workers visiting Hartford schools; and David York, a during the week end has been student at Westminster Choir College. Rev. William J. King, who will open Saturdays from 6 to 10 p. m., the school of religion at Howard and Sundays from 3 to 8 p. m. University, Washington, D. C. There where a staff member will be present to give aid or information here, as well as at the various camps.

Religious services are held every Sunday afternoon at the Poquonock Congregational Church by Rev. William J. King, Poquonock area director. Rev. Mr. Lee and Rev. Martin Dawson, chaplain and assistant chaplain respectively, also conduct 27 religious meetings each week.

Plans this year call for a series of educational discussion groups, and the organization of dormitory councils. Each camp has a moving picture show every week.

"These Jamaican boys are here for patriotic reasons," said Rev. Mr. Lee. "What they need from us is help in understanding American ways and customs, and how to fit into the communities of which they,

Recreation Head



ALFRED W. LINCOLN.

temporarily, become a part. It's our job to help them."

A staff of 13 workers has been selected to carry on the program under Mr. Lincoln's direction. William L. Dole, a teacher at Hartford Public High School, is recreation director. Willard Green, of Weaver High, is music director, and there are three assistant music directors. Audry Lee of the Factory Insurance Association; and Edward Wolcott and Robert J. Rowland, both teachers at HPHS.

**Equal Rights Sought  
For Jamaican Workers**

Jamaicans, Mexicans and other imported war contract laborers should have equal rights with all other aliens in the U.S.

So states the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born in announcing it will challenge the existing interpretation by the immigration and naturalization service denying them equal rights.

"In the average case, non-citizens who enter this country as students or visitors are permitted to change their status and qualify for American citizenship," the committee says.

West Indian

**Deportees On  
Protest Strike**

CAMDEN, N. J. (ANP) — Seven West Indian farm laborers, awaiting deportation for the past month went on strike Thursday at the Gloucester, N. J., investigation station in protest against the delay.

The strike was brief. H. M. Blackwell, officer in charge of the station, broke it quickly and effectively by rounding up the seven, calling for the Camden police van and jacking them off to the Camden county jail.

The seven were among a group of 100 who had been brought up from Jamaica and the Bahamas to work for South Jersey farms and canneries. Some jumped their jobs and about 30 were rounded up for deportation.

W. F. Kelly, assistant commissioner for area control of the bureau of immigration and naturalization, said that ordinarily they would have been shipped home weeks ago. But, with every available ship being to move men and supplies to the Pacific war theatre no transportation has been available.

A week before this incident there was a near-riot among the deportees when one of them accused another of using a crooked deck in a card game.

The Gloucester police were called in to help restore order and the same seven who were carted away Thursday were named as ringleaders. However, they promised they would make no more trouble and were allowed to remain at the immigration station.

Thursday they became balky and refused to obey orders of Blackwell and his 10 guards. So Blackwell took firm measures.

The group won't have much longer to wait. Blackwell said it is planned to take them down to Florida next week-if transportation is available and load them on a ship scheduled to sail July 28.



# Berlin Negro Gets a Policeman's Job

By EDWARD B. TOLES

**Red Army Gives Former Movie Operator a Home; Its Last Occupant was S.S. Officer.**

BERLIN.—For the first time since the rise of Hitler in 1933, Berlin Negroes are finding work. "When Hitler was in power non-aryan persons were unemployable and in spite of the fact that there was a manpower shortage and every man was needed in some industry, no Negroes or Jews were accepted," said Berlin-born Negro Paul Mierzwiak, a cinema operator before the rise of Hitler. *N.Y.*

Paul has steady employment under the Soviet government in Berlin. He is attached to the police department in the Charlottenburger district for which he earns about 350 marks per month (roughly about 35 dollars). However, under the controlled system here in Berlin, Paul, a recently liberated political prisoner, had his present residence in Eichkamp district given to him completely furnished for his wife and four children.

The house is the former home of an SS officer and has very excellent furnishings. A large library with all the excellent modern literature showed the SS trooper to have had good reading habits, Paul told me as we looked over his new home.

## GIVEN HOME

8-12-45

Bomb damage was slight although there are two large cracks in the upper ceiling where the rain seeps through. The leather chairs have all been ripped of their leather coverings by the Russian troops when they learned that this was the home of an SS trooper. The expensive furniture had been smashed into when the drawers stuck and a beautiful desk was split into.

The Russians installed Paul and his family into the home when he could not find shelter. On the door of the pleasant little cottage the Russians had printed Paul's name in German and those of his family and underneath in Russian were the same names indicating to Russian patrols that this family was all right.

Paul would rather be working in a cinema house operating the movie machine but there are only five cinema houses operating in Berlin thought Paul. The Russians have taken all of the movie machines, Paul had heard, to be exported back to Russia to replace equipment wrecked by the German army in Russia.

## PRICE CONTROL

While Paul has a home his pay is not much, yet the Russian system of control of prices is good. Paul said that the mark is controlled at the moment and potatoes may be purchased for two cents a pound and money for food may go a long way but there is no food available in large quantities and Paul has to go to store after store on his bicycle to buy a little here and a little there.

Milk for the children may be obtained sometimes but not always and then for infants under seven. Cigarettes are their greatest luxury and are absolutely unobtainable even to the Russians, who have just been paid for the first time since over a year and fabulous prices may be obtained for cigarettes and watches.

Russian concerts are being given and the music of Haydn, Mozart and Schonberg are being played by symphony orchestras, but said Paul, "Empty stomach pains make noises louder than the music."

Frau Mierzwiak, Paul's wife, is a Berlin-born Jewess, and when Paul was imprisoned by Hitler, she was spared confinement in a concentration camp because of her children and another coming soon. But she was ordered to report to the Gestapo and receive her Yellow Star of David for herself and her children.

When Frau Mierzwiak presented herself to the haughty officer, he thrust her four yellow stars but when he saw the three brown children clutch their mother's skirt, he snatched the three stars back saying, "Blacks need no badges; only Jews whom we can't tell without their badges."

Paul knows some Negroes who were forced into the German army who dared not disclose that they had Negro blood lest they be killed. Paul's own schoolmates whose Negro identity was unknown were drafted and were killed fighting the Russians and the family drew a pension until the Russians came.

The oldest of Paul's children, Judith, eight, attends school now taught by Russian—selected non-Nazis and she is no longer taunted by schoolmates about her dark olive skin. Jussa, five, Luz six months, and Michael three, seemed happy enough playing in the huge bomb crater in the backyard.



# Protest Use Of German War Prisoners As Hired Workers In Tri-States

*Atlanta World - Ga.*  
*Atlanta, Ga.*

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—prisoners are removed and their that he netted only \$14.69 for "One thousand of those new cot-jobs made available to Americans," working two six-day weeks ton-picking machines placed in op- Mr. Mitchell expressed confi- Suits will be filed to compel the eration in the Delta area will un- dence that Mr. McNutt's reply B&O Railroad to comply with the doubtedly displace some 40,000 will contain indications of steps terms of their contract, unless the farm workers whenever they are take to remedy the situation. laborers are returned to Puerto obtained." *1-12-45* Evidently concerned about the Rico, Col. Brau stated. B&O of- known president of the Southern plight of Mid-Southern agricultu- ficials stated that all but six of Tenant Farmers Union, during an of competition furnished by the 1,048 Puerto Ricans imported by interview with a Memphis World cotton picking machine and Ger- the company had quit their jobs, reporter Tuesday afternoon. man war prisoners, are restless disgruntled with conditions, but Mr. Mitchell had been consulted and disturbed. Mr. Mitchell, said that the company gave them the in connection with a recent com- he has received numerous sugges- same treatment as other track la- munication of his organization to tions from his union members that bors. Chairman of the War Manpower moves be made to send them to Western states. *1-12-45*

The Union's letter was sent in He voiced the opinion that Ger- protest over the employment of man war prisoners may be used to keep the low wage scale for cotton German prisoners of war in Mid- field and compress workers in op- South cotton compresses. eration, that has prevailed before. In the letter, signed by Mitchell, No less an authority than Edward McDonald, Regional director for the War Manpower Commission, continued use of war prisoners in stationed at Kansas City, Mo., had the plantation areas of Arkansas, this to say on the matter of com- Mississippi, and Missouri, press workers' wages: "The cotton 'In the town of Lepanto, Ark. compress controversy in Arkansas 50 war prisoners are employed each is now and long has been a ques- Warehouse Co. In this town there Mr. Mitchell expressed confidence are not less than 200 unemployed that the War Manpower Office workers (white and colored who will seek to remedy the situation would welcome an opportunity to where German war prisoners are get a job at this plant. In this employed to keep the wage scale same town, 15 war prisoners are down, and incidentally displac- being used to construct a public available American workers. school auditorium. A resident of Le- panto has informed us that there are five experienced carpenters who are unemployed at this time, in addition to the estimated 200 unskilled laborers available."

"Since the cotton crop has been harvested, there are thousands of men without work in these states. During the height of the season war prisoners were placed in many cotton compresses and oil mills in Arkansas, Miss., and Missouri when there was an alleged shortage of labor. We have been informed that in most instance the prisoners are still at work. There can be no justification for continued use of prison labor in these rural industries when free Americans are without work."

"We trust that the War Manpower Commission will take steps immediately to see that these war

## Puerto Ricans Ask Trip Home

*Proprietary Voice*  
*P.R. N.Y.*  
*1-12-45*

Puerto Rican laborers brought to the United States by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for work on the tracks here have declared that the company failed to live up to its agreement with them, and a group of 25 are demanding to be returned to their country at once.

Negotiating through Col. Louis Ramirez Brau, head of the Puerto Rico Commerce and Industry Association, the group charged that they were poorly fed and housed, and that after deductions were made for board, medical expenses, taxes, and transportation, only a few dollars a week were paid them. One laborer pointed out fighting front.

## LABOR FRONT

# War Plant Unionists Rebuff Jamaicans

*Chicago Defender - Ill.*  
*Chicago, Ill.* *1-13-45*

By EUGENE C. ZACK  
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Race prejudice has reared its head in Springfield, home of the Springfield Plan, with organized labor in one factory registering strong protests against the hiring of Jamaican workers to ease the area's most critical manpower shortage and with residents of a war-time housing development resenting the fact that the Jamaicans will go into Jim Crow barracks in their area. *1-13-45*

At Springfield Bronze and Aluminum, where a crisis looms on vitally needed war contracts, union workers voted against management's plans to bring in Jamaicans for heavy, unskilled labor. The union served notice on the plant area "would not tolerate" such a movement.

Action by the Bronze and Aluminum plant releases more Jamaicans, soon to be shipped here to ease the labor shortage, for work at Fisk Rubber company, Monsanto Chemical company, and Chapman Valve, where unions have wiped out prejudices, backed management in the plan to fill "must" orders on which depends the lives of countless troops at the front.

## Do 'Heavy Labor' Chicago, Ill.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—The deportation of five Jamaican laborers because of their inability to do menial tasks assigned to them, has given rise to complaints as to the living conditions provided for the workers.

The USES, which brought the laborers here to meet the area's most critical manpower shortage at a major war plants, summarily deported the five men when Chapman Valve plant, where they were working, said the men were unable to stand the physical strain of the jobs.

Appealing for a hearing, at which time they asked for other vital jobs of a less strenuous nature the Jamaicans were told by USES and War Manpower officials, "No special consideration can be given you."

The men who objected to the foundry work were told by T. J. Hefferson, acting WMC director "You will do the work you contracted for or you will not work in the United States. Either you do the work and live up to the contract or you break the contract and are sent back to the islands."

Meanwhile, a representative group of Jamaicans lodged protests against the deportations and condemned living conditions, food and transportation costs at their quarters.

power authorities here of plans about half the number of work- ers to Louisville to work in war the United States Employment action was condemned by both the A.F.M. and C.I.O. 5-10-45 W.M.C. officials said they were investigating "a large labor turn- over" at the rocket powder plant, which has been under way since before Christmas. The rate of an-hour premium common labor turnover is about 50 per cent a rate. Plant officials acknowl- month, the W.M.C. reported, or edged their absentee rate is high

## Labor From Barbados Urged for Rocket Plant

*Courier Journal*  
*5-10-45*

Army Engineers and du Pont Officials Want Recruiting Force In the Antilles

Use of native labor imported from the Barbados Islands for construction work on the \$50,000,000 rocket powder plant being built by E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company at Charlestown has been recommended to the War Department in Washington, it was learned yesterday.

The recommendation was made by Army engineers and du Pont officials here said they had not recruiting force be sent to the Antilles to round up Negro labor for the big job on which more than 13,000 workers are now employed.

## Deport Jamaicans For Inability To

*Chicago Defender*



and said that many of the workers get drunk and stay off the job for several days.

The W.M.C. said about 2,500 common laborers are needed at the rocket plant but that otherwise orders for workers at the ordnance plant "are being filled up to schedule."

term contracts of ninety days, subject to renewal. If they are dissatisfied, ample hearing of grievances is assured by the officials of the War Manpower Commission. The government of the two contracting nations are directly

## West Indian Workers Seen Altering Economic Policy

PHILADELPHIA

responsible for all contracting agreements. 3-3-45

The 500 workers from Jamaica, British Honduras and the Barbados now working in the city of Philadelphia are believed to represent approximately one-twentieth of the 10,000 employed throughout the U.S., according to the War Manpower Commission.

Most of these workers were brought into the country for the purpose of supplying farm labor. Since then, however, they have been tried successfully in shops and manufacturing centers of the Franklin Sugar Refining Company, the McCahan Sugar Company and the Publicker Commercial Alcohol Company. 3-3-45

In some respects, this quiet introduction of black labor is seen as a heartening thing, it being pointed out that one cannot escape visualizing the contrast between the present methods of importing colored labor and the horrible method of bringing over slaves many generations ago, suggesting that America has come a long way.

Most of the imported laborers here worked during the past summer at Seabrook Farms, Bridgeton, N.J. The warm summer suns created no problem of acclimatization. Now it is necessary, in order to avoid to great a temperature contrast, to employ many of the workers indoors. 3-3-45

Accepted by Unions

Union labor accepts these workers as members "in all cases," according to M. L. Ginsburg of the South Philadelphia office, W.M.C. Membership is not, however, forced upon them. Ninety-nine per cent of this imported group is listed as a laboring unit, a much smaller per cent holding a somewhat higher rank.

Wages are paid at the prevailing rate, according to the spokesman of the Publicker Commercial Alcohol Company. Yet, in a recent month, one worker is reported to have earned \$482.

The prevailing rate varies from 70 to 90 cents per hour. Of the total wages earned, 25 per cent is sent home by each worker and a liberal amount is invested in war bonds. Frugality is being taught that the workers may avoid the fate of the grasshopper in the old fable.

These employees are here on

All Reports Favorable  
So far, the reports are almost unanimous in approval of the calibre of manhood and the quality of work represented by these men. The War Food Administration, which first brought the workers to this country, seems to have done a good job.

Entertainment for the men has not been neglected. Guidance experts are on hand, at least at the Publicker Alcohol Company, to advise them regarding their problems. Radios are provided and dances are held as often as the program permits.

Life is still a little strange and a little new for the men, however. So is it for American industry which is beginning to realize that colored labor, native or imported, can be a great asset to America and can, with proper guidance, open a new chapter in the American way of life.

## 61 IMPORTED JAMAICANS SICK IN CHICAGO FROM IMPROPER LIVING QUARTERS, POOR DIETS

DETROIT TRIBUNE

CHICAGO (ANP) — With a re-

port Wednesday by city health officials that an additional 10 Jamaicans were taken to the county hospital, the total number of sick natives was hiked to 61.

All started from the grave manpower shortage, when the government deemed it necessary to ship more than 500 natives from Jamaica and the Barbados Islands here for work in two food plants.

With the inadequate housing condition, these natives, all 620 of them, were thrown together in a building which formerly housed the Baptist Women's Missionary Training school.

Because of the crowded living quarters, the unsanitary conditions of the building and inadequate diet, 61 of these men were taken

## Puerto Rican Strikers Win

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28.—Settlement of the strike in the Puerto Rican sugar-cane fields, which came right in the middle of the cutting season and crippled the industry for nearly six weeks, was reported today at the Dept. of Interior's division of territories and island possessions. 3-28-45

The settlement provides for daily wage increases of 23 cents for workers in the fields and 24 cents for those in the mills. This jacked the daily minimum wage of field workers from \$1.50 to \$1.73, and of cane-cutters from \$1.60 to \$1.83. Workers in the mills, whose minimum wage previously was 33 cents an hour, will receive an increase of three cents. A Dept. of Labor directive, handed down in the midst of the strike, raised the minimum wage to 37 cents, however, so workers receiving the minimum will have their pay raised four cents.

The Commodity Credit Corp. has agreed to increase the subsidy on sugar to cover the wage increases.

An estimated 125,000 to 150,000 workers participated in the strike, under the direction of the CGT (The General Confederation of Workers). They walked out Feb. 10, returning last week.

## 61 IMPORTED JAMAICANS SICK IN CHICAGO FROM IMPROPER LIVING QUARTERS, POOR DIETS

down with such diseases as pneumonia, mumps, chicken pox, tonsillitis, bronchitis and pleurisy. Michael Mann, secretary of the Chicago Industrial Union council, CIO, explained.

Contrary to this contention, however, Dr. Paul W. Rush, physician for the Corn Products Refining Co. Argo, where the West Indians work, said, "It's just a case of the natives now contracting diseases most people get as children."

## Sick Room Air Found 'Loaded With Germs'

Islanders In

Chicago Minus Warm Clothing

CHICAGO, (ANP) — Immediate action to save the lives of 529 Jamaican workers here was urged last week as 51 of their number lie stricken by disease.

The demand for action rather than investigation came from Michael Mann, secretary of the Chicago CIO Industrial union Council, following an investigation into the causes of wholesale illness among the workers who are said to be victims of mumps, measles, pneumonia, flu, and meningitis. 3-2-45

CLOTHING NOT WARM

The men complained that in spite of the fact that they had come from a tropical climate they were given insufficient warm clothing to withstand the icy blasts of zero they encountered in the United States, Mann said. They told of shivering with cold going to and from their work. The Jamaicans were brought here on a contract through the United States government with the International Harvester Company.

Heading a committee of CIO leaders following a complaint by Pope Huff, international representative of the Farm Equipment Workers union of the CIO in plants where most of the men are employed, Mann reported that he found 35 cots in one room with not a single window open when they made an unannounced investigation of the building where hundreds of the men are quartered.

"The air was fetid and hot," he said, "and must have been loaded with God knows what kind of germs. Sick men were in their beds with racking coughs and groaning with pain and misery. These poor creatures were thrown in with the rest of the inhabitants of that room and subjected to whatever sickness those persons had without any degree of sanitary segregation in evidence." 3-2-45

JUST ONE TOWEL

"They told us that the bed linens had not been changed since they got there," Mann continued, "and that they were only given one towel with which to use on their persons facial and otherwise."

Two bathtubs, one out of order,

were available for 100 men on that floor, the CIO secretary revealed. He said that "clothes were all over the place" and "there were no such things as lockers and privacy of any description in evidence there." Mann termed their condition a "disgrace to our community" when he remarked that "the building in which they were quartered was in charge of a drunken individual who certainly was in no proper condition to maintain the custody and property of these strangers in our country." 3-2-45

Mann's committee was elected from the building but not before "we had seen enough to turn our stomachs as to the conditions in which these workers were subjected." He revealed that the CIO is not surprised that 51 have been stricken by various diseases and told of warning the W.M.C. of the Jamaicans' plight 10 days ago. Mann appealed to the government agencies to act instead of investigating their conditions.



# Jobless Negroes Don't Want to Return to South

Reports from industrial centers throughout the country leave a grave overall picture of the job situation now facing the Negro worker.

The many thousands of Negroes who left the South for the West Coast early in the war don't want to return to Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana. California's war industries employed a total of 1,000,000 workers, a high percentage of whom were Negroes from the South. Most of them are suddenly without work.

## TAKE ACTION

Removal of industrial and job controls has set some industries scheming to eliminate Negroes completely from peacetime employment.

Seventy percent of St. Louis area's war contracts may be cancelled, thus throwing 18,000 Negroes out of work.

In Ohio 5,000 of Wright Aeronautical's 27,000 workers laid off in Cincinnati are Negroes. Columbus is in process of letting off a total of 17,000, some 2,000 of whom are Negro.

Reports indicate wholesale layoffs in the shipbuilding areas of Philadelphia, Camden and Chester, where thousands of contracts were cancelled within the past week. The Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Chester, Pa., has dropped its Negro personnel from 14,000 to 2,500. More than 30,000 Negro workers are expected to hit the streets in the centers just named.

The Negro press is agreed that a campaign for the Murray Full Employment bill is essential if the country is to avoid an unemployment like the one following the first World War.

Leslie Perry, legislative representative in Washington for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, says that the immediate need "for adjustment of unemployment compensation to the uniform level of \$25 for 26 weeks," as proposed by President Truman, is imperative.

He adds that "while a permanent and anti-discriminatory agency is tremendously important, there is the dire threat that success in its establishment may not mean much unless we have full employment."



45g-1945

Alabama

DIRECTOR

Chicago Defender



**HERSCHELL R. WILLIAMS**  
Who became the personnel director of Negroes in the repair division of the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding Co., Mobile. He served in this capacity during the latter years of the war in the shipbuilding division of the company. Because of the efficiency and intelligence with which he dispatched his duties, he retained his title and position and was transferred to the repair department. He is reputed to be the first Negro to hold such a position in the South.

**WORKING IN HARMONY**  
To the Editor of The News.

Singing, keeping perfect time, in order to move the rails and ties of a railroad siding at exactly the right moment, some 30 or 40 Negroes worked this morning in happy harmony on the Southern Railway tracks at 22nd and Greensboro Avenue in Tuscaloosa.

One Negro sang loud and clear, while the other workers chimed in with lower voices. Ten Negroes were lined on each side of the rails and ties, each with a pinch bar about six feet long. Always, at exactly the same place in the chant, each man paused, picked so many times on the rail with his pinch bar, then presto, all together, they shoved.

The other workers were round about with their picks and shovels. Although the rhythm wasn't of any consequence insofar as their work was concerned, they were all singing or humming softly.

All this singing and cadence at first gave the impression of being unnecessary. The work seemed to be moving too slowly, but in reality this was not true. The perfect time of the music helped the men to work together and to move the rails and ties at exactly the same time, thus keeping the siding all in one piece. The men were happy. They were intermingling work with pleasure, and unconsciously the work became a joy.

Today, with so many strikes and upheavals among workers, this sight of harmony was comforting and encouraging.

MRS. DEXTER D. HULSART.  
1505 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Ala.



25a-1945

**First Negro aerial photographer in  
Army opens Central avenue studio**  
*The Los Angeles Tribune, Los Angeles, Calif.*  
11-29-45

The first Negro aerial photographer in the Army has settled in Los Angeles and opened a studio on Central avenue.

He is Robert Snead, former aviation photographic officer at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Stationed at TAAF three and a half years, Snead was a chief warrant officer when he was discharged and has worked in intelligence, public relations and on maneuvers.

Previously in business in Cleveland and New York, Snead has several firsts to his credit. When he finished his training at Lowery Field, Denver, Colo., he was first in a class of 166. In an Army-wide competition, he scored the highest grade, 98.5.

He was the first Negro ever trained in color photography. With a white G.I. and two white civilians, he received the first instruction given any but the regular employees of the Ansco corporation, pioneers in color, at Binghamton, N. Y. 11-29-45



# Fla. Negro Union Leader Here Tells of Women Workers' Plight

By EUGENE GORDON

**ELBERT E. KOELMAN**, Negro CIO union organizer of Jacksonville, Fla., is in town and chock-full of stories. Most of them are pretty depressing, if you take the short view. Looking at them from the long view, however, they seem less hopeless.

Koelman tells, for instance, of the large number of Negro women now working in fertilizer plants at from \$48 to \$50 for a 40 to 48-hour week. These women formerly worked a 70-hour week as domestics and earned from \$6.00 to \$8.00.

Now, that looks pretty good, until you realize that the women are going back to domestic service as men return from the Army. The depressing side of the picture, according to Koelman, is that Jacksonville's white housewives, who have fumed and sputtered with anger because their domestics had gone into war plants, are scheming to pay these Negro women from \$6.00 to \$8.00 again for working 70 hours a week.

## HIGHER WAGES IN PROSPECT

The long view by which this unhappy picture is made to look somewhat more cheerful is that the returning men—practically all Negroes—will probably receive soon a minimum of 65 cents an hour. The Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers, CIO, of which Koelman is international organizer, has already won that 65-cent minimum for workers in some categories. It is a matter of only a short time, he feels, before all workers will have it.

"When that time comes," he said, "the women who are now being shoved out of these jobs by the returning men will not have to work, in many cases, because their husbands, making at least 65 cents an hour, will be able to take care of both and to let the wives stay home and raise their families."

The unmarried woman is the one who'll catch it hard. She will have to return to domestic work,

whether she likes it or not, and, not belonging to any union, she'll have to take what the "organized" housewives want to give her. And that, he said, is just as little as possible.

Asked whether he meant that these white housewives are actually organized against their domestics, Koelman answered that in the sense that they agree among themselves in their clubs not to pay domestics more than \$8.00 a week, they are organized. Such agreements are common throughout Florida, he said.

There was, throughout the war, an acute labor shortage in Florida. Negroes who took training for shipbuilding, for instance, being unable to find jobs in their native state, left for Brunswick, Ga., San Francisco, Baltimore and other shipbuilding centers. Thus, thousands of Negroes left Florida and the South forever, Koelman declared.

The result was that employers were placed in the unusual position of pleading with the War Labor Board for permission to sign "Form 10," requesting the right to raise wages. It was this situation which made Koelman believe it would not be difficult for returning Negro fertilizer workers to get a minimum of 65 cents an hour.

Ninety-five percent of the FTA membership is Negro. During the year and nine months of its existence it has elevated wages from 38 cents an hour to a low of 55 cents, with a top scale of 65 cents for common labor.

## IUMSW LESS FORTUNATE

Conditions are not so good for the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO. When it got its shipyard contract two years ago, the proportion of white to Negro workers was about 50-50. When the war ended it was 75-25, in favor of the white workers. This loss of Negro membership, Koelman pointed out, came from the shipyard's demand that the union supply white skilled instead of black skilled workers.

Going back to the FTA, Koelman said that some fertilizer workers for 30 years had never

had a vacation. Their present union agreement with the employer demands one week's vacation with pay for 1,600 hours, or two weeks with pay for any employee who has worked for five or more years.

The contract calls also for installation of one shower for every 25 regular employees, with hot and cold water and in a room of suitable temperature for bathing at any time of the year. The contract demands removal of all toilets of the old earthen, unsanitary type and installation of modern sanitary toilets with running water. It provides for lockers and lunchrooms in all fertilizer plants.

One must remember, in looking at this fairly pleasing picture, that the scene is laid in the South and that the hidebound habits of the old South determine even the attitude of the CIO State Council toward the Negro membership.

"The Florida State CIO Council supposedly takes in all CIO locals," Koelman said, "but in actual practice it does not, and though I am a leader, I'm not even notified of meetings."

There are, nevertheless, Negro and white workers together in Koelman's IUMSWA local of 1,000 members.

"The Eppenger Russell Co., creosoting plant with 95 percent government orders, hired 175 Negro and 25 white workers. These white workers are the highest skilled mechanics—locomotive engineers, train operators, treating engineers (who treat lumber with preservatives), boiler makers, machinists."

Negro and white members of this local meet in the same hall "at the same time, behaving as union brothers should."

I asked Koelman what the Florida Negro's main need was right now. He said:

"Nothing more nor less than a fair chance to work and a chance to exercise the full use of his ballot in the primary elections. This right to vote was won just four months ago, when the Duval County Circuit Court ruled that

Negroes could not be denied their right to participate fully in primary elections. We also need, of course, a program to educate Negroes to the value of their vote."



## CATCHING UP ON EATING

# Negro, Trapped in Well 14 Hours, Just Hungry

By ROLFE EDMONDSON, Jr., Ga.

Constitution Staff Writer.

MONTICELLO, Ga., May 1.—Alonzo Stewart, aged Negro well digger, lay in bed at his cabin here today, drinking lots of coffee and eating lots of food.

"I gotta get caught up on my eating," the Negro explained. "I thought yesterday I was about through eating while I stood in the bottom of that well with tons of dirt and stone covering me up."

Stewart walked away from the mouth of the well, scorning an ambulance or a score of automobiles which had stood during the 14 hours Jasper county convicts worked madly to dig through the dirt and stone in an effort to rescue him.

"My feet are cold and my arm aches," the Negro said when hauled to the surface. "I had to stand in water knee deep, and it was ice cold, and a big rock hit me on the arm, and I'm good and hungry."

Employed at a Negro farmhouse to install a terra cotta lining in the well, Stewart had gone to the bottom to set the first section of the new lining.

"While I was placing that piece of pipe, there was a cave in near the bottom," the Negro said. "This warned me, and I got as close to the wall as I could. As the rest of the old lining caved in, a pocket was formed where I stood, and the only injury I received was a bruise on the arm when struck by a big rock."

The well was lined with large rocks, some the size of a watermelon, which collapsed. Stewart said he had plenty of air, and that he heard his rescuers all the time.

Work of rescuing Stewart was directed by F. R. Ezell, sheriff of Jasper county, who declared that the large crew of Negro convicts who worked until early this morning will be paid for their services p.m., or maybe longer if there is a party or if someone is needed to sit up with the children. Some workers were making as little as \$4.25 a week before the war. The union planned to take the old well dig-wants an eight-hour day, a day off each week plus every other Sunday off."

Negro assured all that he did not need medical attention and that he wanted to walk and get some exercise.

**Negro Women In War Work**  
During the peak of wartime hiring, spring of this year—there were nearly 3,000 Negro women in some form of war production or in "essential jobs," said Robert Black, executive secretary of the Louisville Urban League, of which number 1,100 were in skilled or semiskilled jobs. Incidentally this figure, 3,000, is the estimated number of domestic workers in Louisville in 1935. (The bulk of domestic servants are Negroes in this area.)

Within the last few weeks there have been more than 400 lay-offs of Negro women reported to Black's office. Because of delays in reporting, he believes this is not an accurate figure and it is too early to estimate how many are going back into domestic service. Not one woman so far has requested such work through his office, though he has many requests from prospective employers.

Black said it is unlikely that wages will return to their prewar some of \$5 to \$8 a week for the domestic—barring a severe depression—and a set number of hours as a day's work will likely be customary. Such was not the case before the war. The worker will insist on a strict observance of hours and, on the other hand, the housewife will insist on trained service.

Mrs. Mahalie Holman, 2224 W. Walnut, organizer and president of the Domestic Workers Union, together with Mrs. Sallie Mary Stone, vice-president, is working hard to standardize hours and training.

Mrs. Holman said that the union, affiliated with the C.I.O., hoped to establish a wage scale of \$12 to \$18 a week, but until there was more standardization, together with a training program, it would be difficult to set a wage scale.

"There is all the difference in the world between a trained, efficient worker and one who knows nothing about housework," she pointed out. "I don't believe there will be a return to a working day of 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., or maybe longer if there is a party or if someone is needed to sit up with the children. Some workers were making as little as \$4.25 a week before the war. The union planned to take the old well dig-wants an eight-hour day, a day off each week plus every other Sunday off."

Mrs. Holman has a cherished plan to establish a clubhouse for domestic workers where they may leave their children, either day or night, under good supervision. Night work would be more acceptable if the worker knew her children were being cared for "and every parent ought to understand that," Mrs. Holman said.

General

# 2,000,000 Jobs Lost Under Reconversion

Two million Negro and white war workers have been released from their jobs since the surrender of Japan, the United States Employment Service division of the War Manpower Commission estimates on the basis of reports received from 73 labor areas. The areas hardest hit by the impact of job displacements, the survey shows, are Detroit, 100,000;

New York, 89,000; Chicago, 85,000; 70,000 in Los Angeles, and 58,000 each in Cleveland and Newark. Lowest unemployment figure thus far comes from Washington where only 2,500 have been laid off. This figure is expected to rise considerably with the abolition of government war agencies and budget cuts.

Large numbers of Negro war workers have been trapped by sudden reconversion cutbacks in Louisiana, Delaware and Oregon. H. T. Underwood, WMC director, says of New Orleans, that "about 4,000 Negro workers will lose their jobs by October 15th with approximately 2,000 more in the following days." Shipyard and foundry workers in Portland, Oregon, have been hit hard with 7,470 Negroes among the 103,936 workers laid off.

WMC officials also told PV that unemployment figures are not to be regarded in total as an increase in unemployment, "since some of the workers displaced are being absorbed into expanding and continuing industries." Other workers—women, older workers, youth returning to school—may not decide to seek other jobs. The number of workers the WMC expects to drop out of the labor market, however, is considerably larger than estimates by on-the-spot CIO and other labor organization officials.

## Birmingham: South Reverting to Misery

Louis Burnham, Southern Negro Youth Congress, reports that "mass layoffs following V-J Day struck with special force in the South. The plan of reactionaries includes forcing Negro wage earners back to sharecropping misery," excluding Negro women from all work except domestic jobs; denying veterans opportunities to use their skills they learned in the Army; discriminatory practices by the U. S. Employment Service; fighting federal legislation to provide unemployment pay up to \$25 a week. Alabama Congressmen want to protect the "rights" of their state to pay as little as \$1 a week to the jobless, he added.

In answer to PV's question as to what can best be done to serve the needs of Negroes in the areas, Burnham said:

passage of the 65 cent minimum wage law, \$25 for 26 weeks for unemployment pay, full employment bill, and the bill for a permanent FEPC. He also urged "converting" rather than "dismantling" of southern industry geared for war production, the continued operation of numerous facilities by the Federal government until private capital is available, and the overcoming of the wage differential based on race and color.

## Cleveland: 7,000 Out Thus Far

Sidney Williams, executive secretary of the local Urban League, estimates that 5,800 men and 1,200 women have been laid off in aircraft, ordnance and DPC production alone. On V-J Day, 26,000 men and 6,000 Negro women were employed in these industries. "At this time," he says, "we have no figures on the number going into the service and foundry openings which are quite plentiful. No great numbers are registering for unemployment compensation despite recent increases in length and amount of benefits. On the contrary, quite a few 'temporary' jobs are being filled while still others are just taking vacations."



# LABOR EVERYWHERE

...By...  
P. L. PRATTIS

*Pittsburgh Courier, Pa.*

Looks like only thing colored workers can do about some of pushing around they get is to throw a boogie and see that somebody is hurt. Some white folks tell the darndest lies. Case in point involves Pittsburgh Street Railways. Long fight staged through years by Courier, civic groups, including Urban League, NAACP, to persuade company to employ Negro platform operators. War Manpower Commission (Pat Fagan) put company on spot when it refused to certify any more employees (during war) as long as company stuck to color line. Company kicked in, hired a few, four to be exact. One quit. Today, company is busy hiring every white man it can get hands on to fill out quota of nearly two thousand. Still only three colored. Company says all the rest of colored have FAILED examinations. Say this without crackin' a smile and makes you want to throw somethin' at them.

*12-29-45*

You'd think there was somethin' to operatin' a street car. No such thing. More than half operators in San Francisco are Negroes. Hundreds o' Negroes are runnin' 'em in Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, New York. But company says Pittsburgh Negroes are too dumb.

Other day, company turned down Matthew James Corbin, a full-fledged Army Air Force pilot, recently discharged, and qualified by the Civil Aeronautics Authority as a commercial pilot. Company said Corbin, who needs job to support wife and child, failed in "mechanical tests." But Corbin never failed in mechanical test to operate airplane. Has nearly 300 hours in air to credit, no accidents. Good education. But company says he FAILED. Just like our boys used to FAIL at West Point, Annapolis. When other guys is askin' the questions, settin' up the rules and markin' the answers, you can always fail. Seems like Willie Dubois failed once in Atlanta when ignorant registrar asked him to interpret a section of the Constitution.

Only thing about this job cold shoulder is how long Negroes gonna be able to take it. Negroes know what happened in thirties. How they were subtly but rigidly excluded from real jobs, converted into loafers and mendicants. Same thing can happen again. But eyes of Negroes are open now. They may want to scrap if they see same thing happen again. They're gonna find it harder and harder to have good manners when confronted by the efficiency liars from management's side.

*12-29-45*

## STILL ANOTHER FIRST

*N.Y. N.Y. 498 12-8-45*  
It seems that this matter of extending congratulations to Negroes who are "firsts" is endless. We cannot overlook on that rapidly growing list of Negroes who are "firsts," the appointment of Lemuel L. Foster, recently to the position of executive assistant in the personnel division of R. H. Macy and Co., a leading downtown department store.

Mr. Foster, too, is known to readers of this paper for his long work in the field of social and welfare work. Until he was named to the department store executive staff, Mr. Foster served for three years with distinction as race relations officer of the Industrial Personnel Division of the Armed Service Forces. Prior to that time he had long experience in personnel and administrative work in New York City.

*12-8-45*

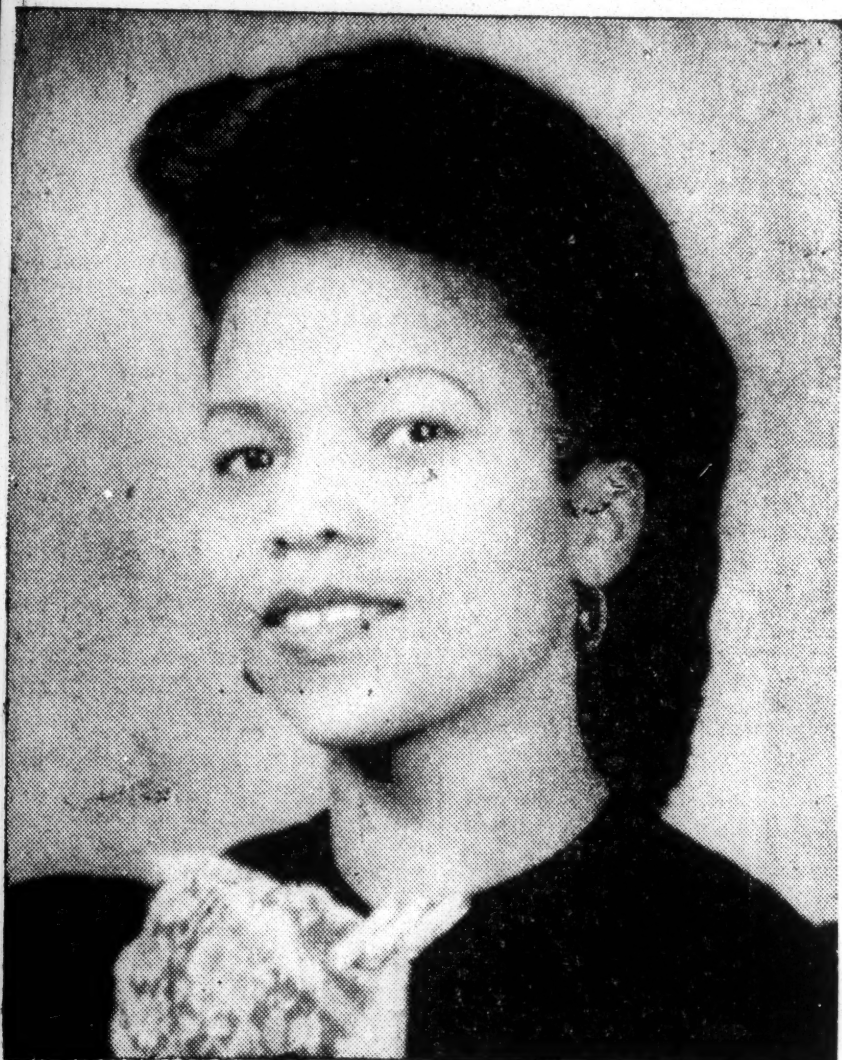
Congratulations, Mr. Foster. May your performance pave the way for other Negroes to receive like appointments in other New York department stores.



**SHE'S A FIRST:** Miss Emily H. Williams of Corona, N. Y., who after more than 25 years of service in the General Post Office of New York, was recently promoted Clerk in Charge, is the only Negro woman P. O. supervisor in the country.



# Appointed



St. Louis Herald-Examiner — Mo. 12-7-45

Mrs. Dorothy Hawkins Jaymes of 4223 Enright avenue was recently appointed as a Home Economics Consultant by the Union Electric Company of Missouri. Mrs. Jaymes is the first Negro to be appointed to professional position by this company.

She has had a distinguished career in the Home Economics profession; having taught in the Adult Education Division in Prairie View State Teachers College in Prairie View, Texas; and New York City, New York; she also taught at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio for a number of years. Mrs. Jaymes received her "Master of Arts Degree" in Home Economics from Columbia University, New York City, New York; after graduating from College as "Magna Cum Laude" of her college class, which was the highest honor received.



45g-1945

New Jersey

MORRISTOWN, N. J.

RECORD

Cir. D. 8,105

AUG 8 1945

## To Hire Negro Girl Operators

Qualified Negro girls will be hired as switchboard operators by the Morristown New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, it was announced this week by William T. Ruffin, coordinator of the Morristown Service Council, a National Urban League cooperation agency.

In informing the Council's Employment Committee of the decision, Donald Boice, business manager of the Morristown telephone branch, stated: "For several years the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company has offered employment to qualified Negro girls in the clerical forces of the company's organization in many sections of the State. The same opportunity is now being offered to Negro girls who are qualified for the work to become switchboard operators, as vacancies occur in the switchboard operating force."

Coordinator Ruffin disclosed that the Service Council's Employment Committee has followed an active program on minority employment integration into Morristown industries since the Committee was formed several months ago. Arthur C. Gillette, well-known lawyer, is Chairman of the Committee, and Rev. Alexander T. White of the Bethel A. M. E. Church is the Council's President.



**Lemuel Foster Gets  
High Post at Macy's**  
*Pittsburgh, Pa. 12-14*

NEW YORK — Lemuel L. Foster Jr. is an executive assistant in the personnel division of Macy's New York department store, according to William Byrd, the store's personnel director. Mr. Foster reported for duty Nov. 13, his position being the highest one held there to date by a Negro. The 37-year-old store employee employs 13,000 persons during the year, many of whom are Negroes.

**Lemuel L. Foster Has  
Executive Position  
At R. H. Macy's & Co.**  
*The New York Age*  
*New York, N.Y.*  
*12-1-45*

Lemuel L. Foster, well known social worker has been appointed executive assistant in the personnel division of R. H. Macy's Co., in which capacity he has been serving since November 12th. Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Foster served for three years as race relations officer of the Industrial Personnel Division, of Armed Service Forces.

A native of Mississippi, Mr. Foster is a graduate of Fisk University with a degree in economics and sociology. He was a member of Fisk Jubilee Singers for three years. He has done considerable social work. He formerly did welfare work in the Department of Labor and once worked with the Department of Negro Economy in Mississippi. For three years he was executive secretary of the Atlanta Urban League. *12-1-45*

For a period of twelve years, Mr. Foster was engaged in the life insurance business in Chicago and New York. He held the position of branch office manager in one of the cities until 1927. In 1935 he pursued his welfare work again, by becoming affiliated with the WPA as race relations officer. He was then connected with Victor Ridder's staff and later with Mr. Sommerville's office. In 1942 he received his Washington assignment which he held until his recent appointment.

Mr. Foster has been a member of the Board of Managers of the Harlem YMCA for the past twelve years. *12-1-45*



'Every Stitch Is Perfect On This Mannikin'

Amsterdam News

N.Y.

3-17-45



WINDOW TRIMMER MIRIAM ANDREWS, of Blum's department store, 125 West 42nd Street, is anxious to make doubly sure that "every stitch is perfect" on this mannikin. Miss Andrews is believed to be one of the few persons of color working as a window trimmer in a major department store. She's 36, and not alarmed at that fact being made public: she is also tall, brown and shapely.

## Window Trimmer Miriam Andrews Sets A Precedent; Looks Ahead

N.Y. Amsterdam News

By CARL DUNBAR LAWRENCE

"I spend most of my leisure time with men," she said, "so please don't ask me anything about women."

We were seated at the Palm Cafe's spacious bar and the six p. m. crowd was slowly gathering. I thought again about what she had said, turned around twice and came up with what I believed to be my wolfish gleam.

"Look Miss," I told her, "what you said then really hit the spot. I must admire a lady who likes a man even if he isn't in uniform. Now, it so happens that I have been watching you since last summer and I can't somehow get you off my mind."

One of the the customers dropped a nickel in the juke box and Josh White began singing "One Meat Ball" as Miss Booker, "that favorite waitress," stopped to suggest two meat balls and plenty of spaghetti instead.

"You're not kidding me," the lady I'm writing about said. "You couldn't be a fresh guy, if you wanted to and that wolfish look is gone already. Since you are so nosey, however, I am going to be patient and let you find out what you're trying to find out in your own way. I'll be here until 7:30 and then I'll leave for school."

A few minutes later, we were seated in a booth, ordering dinner (I got my meat balls incidentally) and talking about people and things. Her name, to get the story straight, is Miriam Andrews.

### She's a First-Timer

Miss Andrews, it developed, is a window trimmer at Blumstein's, the largest department store in Harlem. On April 27, she will have been there exactly one year. If you don't know it, prior to that time all the window trimmers working uptown were white.

As a result, what Miss Andrews is doing now is something new under the sun. In the past, the art of window trimming was reserved for those with creative minds and, judging from the fact that only whites did any trimming, we as a group had not reached that point, some white people thought.

At the beginning of President Roosevelt's second term (1937), Miss Andrews switched her residence from Cincinnati to New York in search of a better opportunity to do some of the things she had always wanted to do.

Until then, Miss Andrews was a designer of clothes for women. She had gotten along fairly well in the Ohio metropolis, but she figured that the nation's biggest city had so much more to offer.

### A Lucky 'Break'

Luckily on her arrival, she got a chance to design a few gowns for a wealthy and influential downtown matron who later suggested that she meet Jean Jones, the window trimming genius for Bonwit Teller and other big New York stores.

After two years, Miss Jones decided to retire; but not before in-

troducing Miss Andrews to other window stylists. That worked out fine for about a year, then the Cincinnati girl decided to return to her home town and take up where she left off at the sewing machine.

Apparently, she had been bitten by the big town bug and she stayed in Cincinnati only six months. She went to Chicago, she went to Detroit and she stopped off in a few smaller cities but it didn't work out . . . so by 1940 she was back in Harlem again.

She immediately went back to fashioning clothes for women, dabbling now and then with window trimming and painting.

In the latter instance, she is still trying hard but she seemed very doubtful about success when asked for some tangible evidence.

### She Became Tired, So—

"You'd only have to see my own room," Miss Andrews said. "It's mad, really mad. The ceiling is white, the walls canary yellow and I brushed a dark green on the wood work. Even so, I could probably create a special color design for Adolph Hitler's prison cell. I think I have some color ideas that would make him dream himself to death."

Just as Miss Andrews was getting tired of designing gowns again, she walked into Blumstein's last spring, met a couple of the store's officials and ended up talking to Joseph Hayden, the display manager.

She told them all the windows could be made more attractive, hinted that she was the person to do it and explained that many Harlemites didn't shop uptown because they believed (from what they saw in the windows) that "better buys" could be obtained downtown.

Miss Andrews was hired on the spot and told to go to work then and there. Under Mr. Hayden, she has done so well that Blumstein officials are wondering why she didn't come around to see them five years ago.

Her special, pet window is the jewelry show case in the lobby of the store. "I like that one a little extra special," she said, "because they just let me go on anything I want to do."

A few months ago, she talked to Mrs. Elizabeth White, of the George Washington Carver School, and has since been studying sculpture. That's important to a window trimmer, she said, in case "you want to design and create your own mannikins."

### Her Hobbies

Aside from that, 75 per cent of her leisure time is spent with men only. She's always ready to see

LeBlanc, Deputy Regional Director of War Manpower Commission, when interviewed here. Giving an analogy to explain what he meant, LeBlanc said further: "It is like the same attitude of the Mexican on the border. People observe this Mexican without establishing his status as a peon and say that all Mexicans are lazy. White people look at the same type of Negro individual and apply their conclusion to the entire group. On a percentage basis, I would say that there is no difference in absenteeism between the two groups."

**VARIED SKILLS NEEDED**

By JOHN H. YOUNG III  
DALLAS—"Absenteeism is a matter of race," declared Henry there is no difference in absenteeism between the two groups.

### Post-War Memo

If you permit her to plug her employer, meanwhile, she can paint one of the best word pictures of Blumstein's you have ever heard. She believes, for instance, that L. Brumstein & Company will expand, expand and expand in the post-war era. "It will be a place of beauty," Miss Andrews says, "ten stories high, instead of five, with everything the 1,000,000 persons living uptown will ever need."

Her special, pet window is the jewelry show case in the lobby of the store. "I like that one a little extra special," she said, "because they just let me go on anything I want to do."

A few months ago, she talked to Mrs. Elizabeth White, of the George Washington Carver School, and has since been studying sculpture. That's important to a window trimmer, she said, in case "you want to design and create your own mannikins."



ism between white people and Negroes." 3-27-45

I ASKED Mr. LeBlanc if there had been any great migration of workers from this region. He said: "Since the emergency, we have trained 3,000 skilled workers. None, or very few of them, could get jobs here, so we sent them to the West Coast. I would say that about 40,000 white and 8,000 Negro workers have migrated to California from this region."

Mr. LeBlanc then said that there was a great population shift in progress that no expert could gauge with any degree of accuracy as to its effect on the total economy. He said that the problem of finding jobs for all workers would be a great one. He added that the problem of the Negro worker would only be a part of the whole.

SOUNDING a warning to the present skilled Negro worker, Mr. LeBlanc said that this worker should begin now to learn more than one skill. He said that it was almost certain that the worker in the post-war picture who would be more certain of a job would be the one who had mastered more than one skill. Mr. LeBlanc suggests that not only must the worker be able to operate the drill press, but the various lathes as well.

### Buffalo Has Its First Negro Phone Girl

BUFFALO, Feb. 26.—The Bell Telephone Co. of Buffalo employed its first Negro switchboard operator this week, according to Edward Lawson, regional director of the Fair Employment Practice Committee.

The operator, now in training, is Miss Florence Lee of 1300 Michigan Ave. A native of Buffalo, she formerly worked in a candle factory.

Lawson said that following the FEPC's recent success in opening employment opportunities for colored girls as switchboard operators in New York City, movements were started in many communities. The drive in Buffalo was spearheaded by the Memorial Center and Urban League of this city, of which William L. Evans is director and Howard M. Nash industrial secretary.

### Bell Telephone Co. New York Age In Buffalo Hires First Negro Operator

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Following the lead of the New York Telephone Company, the Bell Telephone Company of Buffalo employed its first Negro switchboard operator this week, according to Edward Lawson, Regional FEPC director.

The operator, who is now in training, is Miss Florence Lee, of 1300 Michigan avenue. She is a

native of Bugalo who formerly worked in a candle factory.

The drive in Bugalo was spearheaded by the Memorial Center and Urban League of this city, of which William L. Evans is director, and Howard M. Nash industrial secretary.

### Aged Negro Rescued By Convict Volunteers

MONTICELLO, Ga. — (AP) — A Negro well digger was rescued by convicts late Monday night after being entombed 14 hours in a 54-foot well.

The 60-year-old man, Alonzo Stewart, entered the well to reline it. The rock lining collapsed, burying him.

Stewart had carried the first piece of a 36-inch pipe into the well. This prevented him from being crushed.

Sheriff F. R. Ezell hurried the county convict gang to the scene, a Negro farmhouse, and they began removing the heavy rocks.

Sundown came — legal quitting time for the convicts under state law. The sheriff asked for volunteers. All the convicts stayed on.

At that time they had got within 20 feet of the well's bottom. They could hear Stewart's groans.

Rescue came a little before midnight. The well digger hadn't suffered any broken bones. Given a sedative, he went to sleep — apparently little the worse for his experience.

### Up Negroes to diner stewards

CHICAGO—Four Negro stewards were appointed last week by the Milwaukee railroad, it was announced Wednesday by Elmer W. Henderson, Chicago regional director of the Fair Employment Practice committee.

The men, all veteran waiters-in-charge of the company's dining car services were: C. J. Crawford,aco Smith, Donald Hawkins and Henry Hadnot.

This action by the Milwaukee railroad climaxed negotiations between the company and the FEPC which were instituted on the basis of complaints received, charging that qualified Negroes were denied these positions solely because of their race.

Henderson also revealed that the Pennsylvania, Illinois Central and North Western lines have already employed Negroes as stewards.

### Jamaica Phone Co. Hires Negro Girls

The Queens Committee for the

Employment of Negroes, reported early last week, that Helen Plair and Lillian Sills, both of South Jamaica, have the distinction of being the first Negroes to be employed as operators in the Jamaica office of the telephone company.

Rev. Charles Carrington, pastor of Brooks Memorial Church, commended Miss Plair while Miss Sills was recommended by her pastor, Rev. James L. McCabe of St. Benedict the Moor Church. They were selected from a list of applicants submitted to the telephone company by the committee of which James H. Hubert is secretary.

### Miss Ger. Jones Wins Promotion

Miss Geraldine Jones, stenographer, of Wenatchee, Wash., who became the first Race girl to be employed by the local Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company in any capacity, has just been promoted to the position of senior stenographer along with several whites, which carries with it additional increase in pay.

In again introducing Miss Geraldine Jones to our reading public, we are actuated by a desire to impress upon these young men and women who are soon to leave school with a signal honor, a high school graduate: When opportunity knocks at your door be ready.



Unless you are fitted and capable you are apt to find yourself behind the eight ball.

Miss Jones, realizing the handicaps of an intolerant world, faced it fully armed, with a determina-

tion to overcome it. Her varied successes, her versatility and always her preparedness is a fitting example of what our high school graduates may elect to follow after leaving the schoolroom behind them.

The Northwest Enterprise and friends of Miss Jones are proud of her record and congratulate her on having been such a fine ambassador of racial good will.

## 273,971 Colored Federal Workers, FEPC Reveals

Cites "Numerical, Occupational Gains"

Disproportionate Mass in Lower Grades

WASHINGTON — (ANP)—A total of 273,971, or over one-tenth of all Federal employees were colored as of March 31, 1944, according to a report released by the Fair Employment Practice Committee.

The report notes that Colored Americans have made "definite gains, occupationally and numerically," in Federal employment, but also reveals that:

1. Many of the numerical gains have been in jobs, skilled and unskilled, which have little or no chance of continuing after the war such as in Navy shipyards and Army munitions depots, arsenals and airfields.

2. Colored persons, in comparison with all other workers, "were disproportionately concentrated in the lower grades."

#### Stand to Suffer Most

3. Chief reason for increase of Colored Federal workers is their use to replace whites who found better paying private jobs.

As a result, the report further points out, colored will probably suffer employment and possibility of the return of discriminatory practices in Federal employment to the degree at which it once existed.

The report covers 85 per cent of all Federal workers, the total of which is set at 2,699,986 as of March 31, 1944.

This date was chosen, the report explains, because it was "a period when there was the least seasonal fluctuation in Federal employment" and because the

committee's figures for this time were most nearly complete and representative of all employment in the Federal Government."

#### 19.2 Per Cent in Washington

The exact percentage represented by the 273,971 is 11.9 of all the workers covered.

In departmental service-headquarters offices, usually situated in Washington, there were 41,556 colored, 19.2 per cent of the 216,208 departmental workers covered in the study. In field service there were 232,415 colored, 11.2 per cent of the 2,079,406 field workers.

Of all Federal workers, 9.4 per cent were in departmental service and 91.6 in the field. Of colored workers, 15.2 per cent were in departmental service and 84.8 per cent in the field. Most agencies showed that proportionate colored employment in the field was much lower than in departmental service.

#### 50 P. C. Drop in Menial Jobs

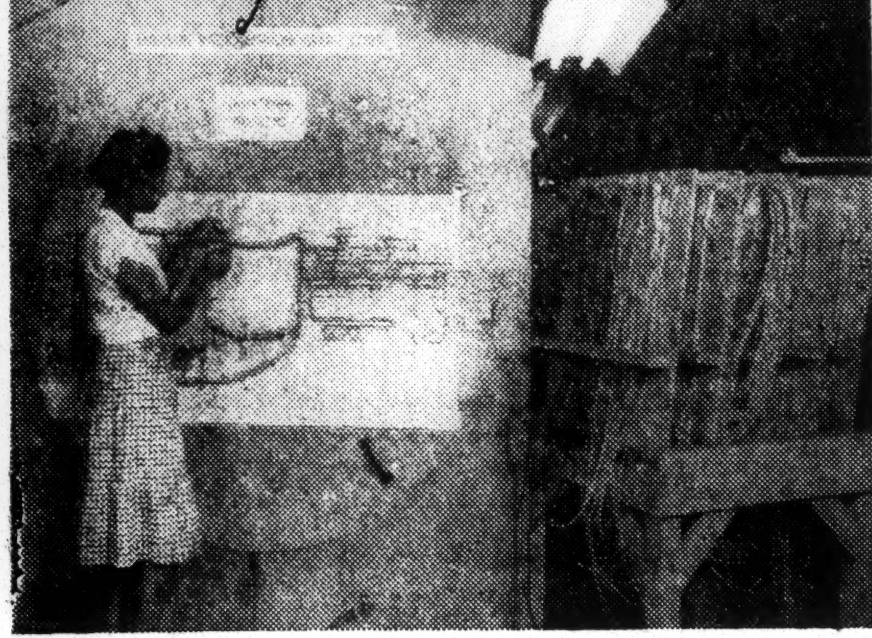
Comparison of the present report with a study of Colored Federal Government employment in the District in 1938 shows that the proportion of colored persons in custodial jobs has changed from 90 to 39.6, "a decrease of more than 50 per cent and an increase of more than 600 per cent in the higher paid positions."

The full report covers 57 government agencies and departments, including every major agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government except the departments of agriculture, labor and justice and the field service of the post office.

It was compiled by Cornelius L. Golightly and Mrs. India W. Hemphill of the FEPC's division of review and analysis, under supervision of the division's director, John A. Davis.



*Atlanta Daily World Atlanta Georgia 9-13-45*



**HIGHLY TECHNICAL** — Miss Perzelia Mercer the most versatile cable maker in Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation of New York City. Miss Mercer who is employed on a secret Navy project knows by memory the size color and gauge of every one of the 131 wires that go into the harness she handles. Since starting the job she has trained five other workers, white and colored to perform this task. Her fore-

man says she can spot a piece of wire on the floor and instantly give its number and position on the board. This cable designed by Emerson Radio engineers is one of the largest cables used today illustrating how well American industry was converted to war needs. Emerson Radio, largest manufacturers of small radios in peacetime, displayed versatility in handling large instrument projects.

## Chain Eateries Retain Negroes

During the stress of the wartime help shortage, Horn & Hardart and Chuck Full O' Nut used colored girls in their concerns throughout the entire city of New York. Many of the girls now employed under these two firms have been, in the past few weeks worried as to whether or not they would be allowed to retain their jobs.

PV this week visited the personnel offices of Horn & Hardart and Chuck Full O' Nuts.

Mr. Farley, assistant to the president, at the Automat's office, stated that approximately 21% of his employees were at present Negroes. His office stated that they had found these workers to be satisfactory. Many of the jobs which the girls now occupy were previously staffed by men now in the armed forces, whose jobs have been promised to them upon their return. However, it is the general feeling that very few of these men, after training in the army,

will care to return to positions as bus boys and waiters and will try for better positions. At the present time, the staffs of the Horn & Hardart automats have remained almost totally unchanged, with colored workers still serving in the sections where white patrons are in the majority, and such will continue to be, according to this office, the policy in the future. This is a great improvement over their former employment of Negroes, who in the pre-war period, constituted less than 11% of the total employees.

Mr. C. F. Farley of Chuck Full O' Nuts also emphasized the fact that they will have a continued

## Occupations

policy of widespread Negro employment. However, Chock Full has always preferred counterwomen to counterwomen, but again, as in the case of H&H, it is felt that returning veterans will not be quick to take jobs in restaurants, but will try for some improvement.

Negroes constitute almost one-half of the employees of this firm, over 20% more than they did in pre-war periods. This office stated:

"Our future plans do not call for any drastic change of employees. We have found our Negro employees to be responsible and we certainly do not contemplate any mass layoff because of race."

Both offices stated that, while at present there are only a few openings in their concerns, many

of the girls now working will give up their jobs when husbands return from overseas, leaving enough vacancies, so that not only the veterans who do care to return to their jobs can do so, a possible future need for workers will be established.

They promise, at this time, to continue in their liberal policy of non-discrimination.

## Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

### Employs Five Negro Workers In

### Fear Of Ives-Quinn Prosecution

Five Negroes, four women and one man, have been employed in white collar jobs by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 1 Madison avenue, it was disclosed Thursday by C. W. Taylor, vice-president of the company, who told The New York Age that it was because of the Ives-Quinn Law that the company has reversed its traditional policy of not employing Negroes. 9-29-45

The four women are serving in clerical capacities and the man is engaged in a special assignment in the personnel division, Mr. Taylor said, but refused to allow the press to interview the new employees or take their pictures saying that it was against the company's policy to let the public know names and addresses of employees. For years, Metropolitan Life

Insurance Company has maintained a rigid policy of employing white workers only although it is reported that the company carries more insurance on Negroes than all the Negro insurance companies combined. For years, Negro organizations have in vain tried to get the company to employ Negro workers on the theory that if Negroes are good enough to spend their money with the company they are good enough to earn money as employees.

Several years ago, it was reported in insurance circles that the Metropolitan was gradually withdrawing from Negro business and was writing no new policies for Negroes. This was given credence when it was learned that the company had withdrawn its agents from Negro areas where formerly they called and made collections. Now, Negroes insuring with Metropolitan must either use the mails or go to one of the branch offices to pay their premiums. 9-29-45

Early this year, when there was a serious need for workers, the company was said to have asked each employee to submit the names of high school graduates

that the company could congratulate them upon graduation and invite them to work for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Upon learning of this, one prominent Negro organization, early in June, contacted the principals of New York high schools and urged that they submit the names of their graduates to the company for possible employment. In that manner, the names of many Negro high school graduates were submitted.

That the employment of the five Negroes now by Metropolitan Life was motivated only by reason of the fact that there might be an investigation of its employment policies by the State Commission Against Discrimination, was admitted Thursday by Mr. Taylor to The New York Age in reply to a question as to why after all these years Metropolitan

Life Insurance Company had suddenly decided to employ Negroes. 9-29-45 The beginning wage in the Metropolitan, it was said, is \$18 per week plus \$3 cost of living increase and free lunches, and the workers are not unionized.

## 100 Switchboard Operators In N.Y.

WASHINGTON—(ANP) — More than 100 Negro women are now working as switchboard operators on many exchanges of the New York Telephone company in New York City and vicinity, Malcolm Ross, FEPC chairman, announced last Friday. Reports from the companies indicate that additional Negro operators are employed in the Atlantic City, Newark and Salem offices of the New Jersey Telephone company.

The New York company hired the first eight Negro girls in December, 1944, and has been hiring other qualified workers steadily and placing them, upon completion of training wherever operators were needed. Negotiations between the company and FEPC had begun in June of last year. The first girls were selected by the Greater New York Urban league.

The New Jersey company employs five operators in Atlantic City, two in Newark, and recently hired at its Salem office a Negro woman who had been employed by the New York Telephone company moving to Salem. Clerical workers and workers in other classifications have been employed for sometime by these same companies, and also in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia.



## Moves Up At Blumstein's



MISS MIRIAM ANDREWS, hired as a window-trimmer by Blumstein's 18 months ago, was named assistant display manager of Harlem's department store, it was learned this week. Miss Andrews' new post is probably the first of its kind to be held by a Negro woman. As assistant to Joseph Hayden, Blumstein's widely known display manager, Miss Andrews becomes a member of the store's executive staff with a higher salary and the customary bonus.

### METROPOLITAN LIFE

A headline in last week's paper announced that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has employed five Negroes, 4 women and 1 man, as white collar workers—the first Negroes to be employed by the Metropolitan in any capacity. Ordinarily that announcement would be caused for rejoicing, because it would be indicative that the most powerful insurance company in the United States had finally seen the light and had decided that Negroes should be given an opportunity to earn money from the company which they support so heavily.

Unfortunately, however, any glee that announcement of the changed policy might have occasioned, is dulled by the equally frank admission of C. W. Taylor, vice-presi-

dent of Metropolitan, that the company has employed five Negroes only because it did not want to be guilty of violating the Ives-Quinn (State Anti-Discrimination in Employment) Act and thereby face prosecution by the State Commission Against Discrimination. 10-6-45

Honesty the old truism goes, is always the best policy. But in the honest statement of C. W. Taylor, Metropolitan's vice-president, the honesty is disappointing, because, because rather than being an admission that the company has finally seen the wisdom of employing Negro workers on their own merit and because it is a policy in keeping with democratic practices, the statement blandly says that the only reason Negroes are being employed is because the law says there shall be no discrimination in employment.

For that reason, there can be no rejoicing at Negroes having won another victory in the fight over intolerance and discrimination. The employment of five Negro white collar workers at Metropolitan, by the company's own admission, was not done because the company has suddenly become enlightened, but only because of the law. Under those circumstances, those five workers represent mere token employment because of the law.

If that is an indication of the way industry wants to play, then, it is up for Negroes—qualified for employment—to force the issue with industry in New York State through the State Commission Against Discrimination. The educational process, it appears, does not work. The law does, and Metropolitan Life clearly shows that. 10-6-45

## Appointed Assistant Manager



H. ALTUS WHITFIELD, right, newly appointed assistant manager of the Miles Shoe Store, 125th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. Dave Wallman, left, is shown, smilingly giving his new aide some fine points. Whitfield started to work at Miles in May of this year as a clerk. He is 31 years old; a native of Texas, and attended Prairie View State College. He is married. Another Negro is assistant manager of Miles' store at 112 West 125th Street, and it is reported he is soon to be promoted to the managership of one of the stores.



New Manager Takes Over. Lenly Gunther, recently appointed manager of the United Cigar Store, Lenox av and 125th st, accepts the keys to the establishment from the outgoing manager, Leonard Sisti. Extreme right is Arthur Neal, new clerk, looking on. Gunther, one of eight Negroes employed in Harlem by the chain, has been with the company three years—(Ansom foto).



45g-1945

PULLMAN PORTERS

When the record of war achievements on the home front finally is written, among those at the top of the list will be those workers employed on the railroads of our nation. These men are shouldering a terrific burden of war responsibility with peace-time equipment and war-time facilities.

Railroad yards are loaded nation over with thousands upon thousands of freight cars filled to capacity with not alone war materials but, also food to feed the world. And with almost every train the passenger service an hour before departure hanging out a mythical sign, "Standing Room Only." But all these cars, both freight and passenger, are moving.

They speed the rails through the night as well as through the day. From the man who pulls the throttle of the engine down to the man who unloads the cargo at the depot, all of them are members of their respective trade unions, unions that are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

While we pay tribute to them all, we desire particularly to laud one group who are also members of the American Federation of Labor these being the Pullman porters in the passenger service.

No matter how tough the going gets; no matter how congested becomes passenger traffic; no matter how cranky and jittery travelers are because of their inability to get lower berths or drawing rooms, there is a constant smile beaming on the faces of these pullman porters, and a courtesy which too many travelers fail to recognize.

A short time ago, we were on our way to an eastern city. Because of severe cold weather and poor equipment, it was necessary for every passenger to transfer to another train completely made up of day coaches. Every one seemed to be as "mad as a hornet" because of the inconvenience. Not however, the pullman porters. They had all the work to do—moving all of the baggage from one train to another. They had to face the elements; their hands were cold, and their feet, too, but they smiled through it all, their white teeth flashing. A smile always has been contagious and before our day coach train was far on its way, nearly everyone was smiling too.

All praise to the union railroad workers for the "bang up" war job they are doing and more praise to the Pullman Porters!

—Butcher Workman

Occupations

# Woman Physicist Tests Radio Antennae At Wright Field, Ohio

Former Teacher In Florida And Virginia Only One In Command

WRIGHT FIELD, OHIO— Miss Carolyn Parker, only Negro woman physicist at Air Technical Service and one of two women scientists in the Engineering Division here, is soon to have her wish a ride in one of the air-planes equipped with radio devices she has tested.

The 27-year-old former high school teacher in Florida and Virginia applied to Aircraft Radio Laboratories (ARL), and begun work here in March 1943 on an assignment in the Communication and Navigation Laboratory, Special Devices Branch. Beginning with research in the field of electrical measurements, she is now engaged in testing radio antennae in order to make possible the most efficient matching of the antennae with various radio sets.

## TECHNICAL WORK

Antennae are brought into the Laboratory and Miss. Parker tests them at the range of frequencies immediately above the broadcast band. For each antenna, at each frequency, she compares the impedance, which is the resistance to alternating current found in electrical circuits. These values are determined so that radio equipment sets can be matched to antennae having a similar impedance thus yielding the greatest efficiency in operation.

Born in Gainesville, Florida, where her father, Mr. J. A. Parker is a physician. Miss Parker was graduated from the Middleton High School, Tampa, Florida in 1933. After teaching a year in High Springs, Florida, she went on to college receiving her bachelor of arts degree in 1938 from Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, and her master's degree in 1941 from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She majored in physics at both institutions, specializing in spectroscopy for her graduate work.

From 1938 to 1940, Miss Parker was teaching high school physics and mathematics one year at Rochelle, Florida where her mother is principal of the Junior High School; the next year back at

Gainesville, her hometown. In 1941-2, she taught eighth grade at Progressive Huntington High School at Newport News, Virginia and the following year, Miss Parker received an appointment as instructor in physics at State Teachers' College, Bluefield, West Virginia.

Miss Parker came from a whole family of practicing or potential scientists. Two uncles, John E. Murrell, in Cleveland, Ohio and William Murrell in Miami, Florida are doctors. Two sisters, one a graduate of Talladega College, in Alabama, the other of Tennessee State, at Nashville are doing work of quartz crystals at the Signal Depot, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Another two sisters are chemistry majors, one at Fisk University, the other at St. Augustine College, Raleigh, N. C.

# Wright, Patterson Fields Integrate 8,000 Race Workers

By LEON W. TAYLOR

DAYTON, O.—(ANP)—Nearly 8,000 Negro workers have been integrated here at the Wright and Patterson army air fields.

At both fields, which are located beyond the eastern boundary of this city, Negroes are working in all branches of civilian employment, ranging from maintenance, semi-skilled and clerical workers to engineers and chemists who are making experiments for the advance of American air power.

## SUITABLE EXAMPLE

The democratic policy of these plants should be an example for other war industries all over the country, said one Negro worker.

These workers came from all parts of the country and from all sections. The inhibitions of some, the prohibitions of others, personal likes and dislikes, have vanished in answer to the summons for national strength and a shouldering of the greatest concerted effort in world history.

They work as one. The finesse of integration stands a tribute to patriotism and these charged with harmonizing social differences. It is here that the superior man, whether he be black or white, has caused other men to forget his ethnological origin by the scintillation of his genius. National unity has become the homogenous objective of a heterogeneous people.

## PERFECT DETAIL

Private industry has yet to approach the perfect detail achieved in these bustling workshops of the national government.

The extent of integration at first is hard to visualize, so complex are its many branches. When one traverses long corridors, and thorough different departments, the realization grows that here are governmental groups coordinated and efficiently manned in a democratic way.

## Labor In Dixie

BY ROBERT QUILLEN

This is addressed especially to those people, unacquainted with the "deep South," who think Congress must do something to insure fair employment practices because Negroes in the South are either denied the right to work or

forced to toil long hours and paid in table scraps, old shoes and second-hand clothing.

(Incidentally, an FEPC investigation a year or two ago revealed more unfair practices in Detroit than in Texas, and now the reduced staff is giving most of its attention to the "10 worst cities," only three of which are south of the Mason and Dixon line.)

I dislike writing about my private affairs, but in this instance it is unavoidable. After all, how can any witness testify without being personal?

South Carolina is not the deepest South on the map, but in all that is typical of the South it qualifies as Exhibit A.

The small brick house that is now my winter home in South Carolina was built while our nation was enjoying one of the periodic economic sprees we call booms. Everything was outrageously high. Cement was \$2.50 a sack; the poorest quality of oak flooring (the only kind available) cost \$140; and pressed brick cost a nickel a brick, \$50 a thousand.

My boss carpenter was a white man. I paid him \$5 a day. The brick mason was a Negro. He charged me \$15 a day, and the white man who mixed mortar for him cost me only \$2.50. (The Negro mason found another one for me in a neighboring town, and he also charged \$15 a day; but his work was so awful it had to be torn down and he quit without waiting to be fired.)

The plasterer was a big Negro with a fine baritone voice, who sang as he worked. He was an expert. I have forgotten what he charged, but he took the job "by contract" and set his own price. The roofer was a Negro, also, and he gave me a price for the whole job, take it or leave it.

Every white painter in town was tied up for months to come, but a transient came by just in time. He was a little brown Negro and one of the best workmen I ever saw. I think he charged me \$5 a day. His only fault was that he got drunk every week-end and I had to bail him out of jail every Monday morning.

Negroes get the lowest wages because they do the common labor; but in every pick and shovel gang, in ordinary times, you find unskilled white men who are drawing the same wage. Skilled Negro workers, around home, get the pay of skilled white workers.

I do not mean to say that Negroes get an economic fair deal. I am only testifying concerning a few matters in one small place which I happen to know about.



# Dining Car Waiters Use "Shove 'Em" Technique

*The Afro American*

By IRENE WEST

*Baltimore, Maryland 9-29-45*

Philip Randolph's boys on the Chicago run to Los Angeles are really mad mean through. They wear faces as sour as green grapes and serve the passengers with obvious contempt. I watched their technique with alarm, but when I got the psychology of this, I was tickled. Porters and waiters on the New Orleans run from Los Angeles are more like the old days. Often they give you a warm smile and even say, "Good morning," as they take your breakfast order.

Aboard the Challenger, the waiters take the orders with a sour face and impatient frown.

The tables have glass tops and the noise is tremendous as the waiters throw the dishes and silver at the passengers.

There are a lot of arrogant, inconsiderate newly-rich traveling, as well as a lot of cheap skates

whites. They would look at the waiter with a scowl, then at their plate and again at the waiter as he slambanged down the table setup.

who leave ten cents on the wonder whether that was accidental or intentional. I heard the waiters razz- As the passengers got this treating about the ment at every meal they probably dimes. A dollar decided it was the haste and glass-is worth only 50 topped tables after all and not the cents today, so a waiters' intentional insult. dime is a nickel. I knew different. Their faces No wonder they boded evil and they looked ready razzed. But when for anything.

I gave a quarter On Your Side I got no "thank Did I get it that first breakfast! you." "Thank The silverware was thrown down you" is definite- and a spoon tossed across the table ly out.

It has taken a lot of abuse to make our colored boys behave like this; maybe serving so many Southern soldiers did it.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The same thing is going on in New York where there are white waiters. It is not a matter of color. There are a lot of waiters who are sore at somebody.)

I walked through the diner between meals and about 15 waiters were in a huddle in one end of the car chattering like magpies.

The chief steward sat in the other end working on his papers. He didn't try to quiet them; he

The glass of ice water was set down with such a thud, I jumped. I was the only one at a table for four. When the waiter half-flung and half-skidded a plate of snattered scrambled eggs at me, I spoke up.

"Listen, brother, you don't have to throw it at me. I happen to be your friend.

"I know how you feel, and personally I couldn't find it in my heart to blame you if you threw the food instead of the dishes in their faces."

## A Bigger Way

I handed him my card and told him we'd find a better and bigger way to humble their arrogance and make them human.

He studied the card and said, "I hope you'll pardon me, lady, but we can't stop to figure who's who."

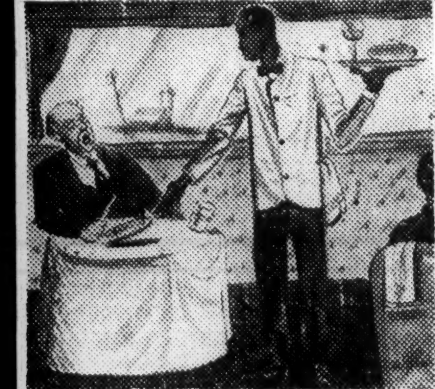
In the middle of the night I rang for an extra blanket. The Pullman porter growled, "What-cha want?" He flung one in between the curtains and was gone.

He didn't stop to spread it over me. I had to laugh; he was so sulen and rude.

Next morning when he made up my berth he discovered an AFRO, and two other colored newspapers. Then he softened a little.

## Push and Shove

Leaving the train at Omaha, I heard the story of how a white soldier and colored waiter were in a crap game that ended in a fight.



Irene West

## New Philly Cab Drivers

*afro - american*



James Shephard, left, of 811 N. Preston St., and Harry Savedge of 1535 N. 21st St., shown above, are the first colored drivers to be employed by the Yellow Cab Company in Philadelphia. Currently working on the day shift, both are employed on the 90-day basis. If they are successful, it will mean the overcoming of a 21-year-old color barrier of the company.—(Pearce photo).



## Martin Named on RCA Staff

**AFRO-AMERICAN**  
2-27-45  
CHICAGO. (ANP)—Dallas A. Martin, well known for his activities in connection with audio-visual developments in education throughout the South, has been named market development representative in Chicago and Detroit by the RCA Victor division of the Radio Corporation of America, it was announced last week. As a member of the educational department of RCA Victor at Camden, N.J., Mr. Martin has given lectures and demonstrations of audio-visual equipment for schools in sixteen States. Recently he has been engaged in manufacturing and statistical activities at the Indianapolis plant for RCA Victor.



D. A. Martin  
part of RCA Victor at Camden, N.J., Mr. Martin has given lectures and demonstrations of audio-visual equipment for schools in sixteen States. Recently he has been engaged in manufacturing and statistical activities at the Indianapolis plant for RCA Victor.

## Sheriff's office has 46 Negroes

There are 46 Negro employees in Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz' office, he told Negro newsmen who conferred with him last week. Their upgrading the result of a campaign of community newspapers and leaders, 42 of the 46 have all been hired under the Biscailuz tenure of office, it was pointed out.

First Negro sheriff's office employee was the late Major J. B. Loving, who was appointed by former Sheriff Hammill. Former Sheriff Traeger added Aaron Holiday, William Faulkner and J. Berry.

At present there are 27 deputies, three guards, two typist-clerks, 9 elevator operators, two messengers, three bailiffs. Two men are assigned to the prison van, or "Black Maria", transporting prisoners to and from court and substations. Two work as investigators, and one woman is assigned as deputy to the County Jail. This is believed to be the largest personnel of any sheriff's office in the country.

## New Orleans Shipyard Hires Negro Welders

**1-30-45**  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—(AP)—The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice said today the Delta Shipbuilding Company, New Orleans, had begun hiring Negro welders.

Describing the step as a "revision of the company's employment policy," Malcolm Ross, committee chairman, said the hiring of 30 Negro production welders "has helped to relieve a shortage of welders reported by the firm during much of 1944."

## 1,700 NEGRO WOMEN TAKE ARSENAL JOBS

**1-31-45**  
Army officials and representatives of the War Manpower Commission joined yesterday in praising Harlem residents for carrying out a four-week campaign to recruit women as munitions workers for Picatinny Arsenal at Dover, N. J. Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, regional director of the WMC, told seventy campaign leaders at a testimonial luncheon at the Hotel Biltmore, that their efforts and the response of 1,700 Negro women to the appeal had established a model in community cooperation for the city.

"We are grateful to Harlem," Mrs. Rosenberg said, "for showing that New York can do a community job no matter how large the city is." She paid tribute to the work of Col. W. E. Larned, commanding officer at the arsenal, "whose faith and appreciation in the colored workers," she said, "had encouraged others to join and which should serve as a lesson to those who show less enthusiasm for employing Negro workers."

Brig. Gen. Stewart E. Reimel, regional representative of the Army Service Forces, said that 5,703 more workers were needed.

Other speakers included Lieut. Col. Charles W. Ballou, chief of the labor branch of the Army's Second Service Command; Henry K. Craft, executive secretary of the Harlem branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, and Morris J. Kaplan, assistant area director of the WMC, who presided.

## Phone Operators Hired in Queens

**1-27-45**  
The Queens Committee for the Employment of Negroes has just reported that Mrs. Helen E. Plair and Mrs. Isobel Louise Sills, hired on January 8th, are the first Negro telephone operators to be hired by the Jamaica office of the N. Y. Telephone Co.

Mrs. Isobel Louise Sills, one of the operators, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell of 107th av and is a graduate of St. Peter Clavers School in Brooklyn and St. Francis De-Sales Academy, Rock Castle, Va.



SILLS

Her husband, William L. Sills, formerly of Wichita, Kansas, is now in the United States Coast Guard. In an interview, she expressed delight in her work and says, "I find the work quite interesting and I like it very much; I find the employees there very cooperative, congenial and unbiased."

Mrs. Helen E. Plair, the other operator is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James

T. Fisher, of 105-37 143d st. She was an honor graduate of John Adams High School, a pupil of Drake's Business School a former student of the



PLAIR

American Negro Theatre and a member of the Victory Ensemble.

She is married to Cassius M. Plair, now first lieutenant with the Chemical Warfare Branch, U. S. A., stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. Mrs. Plair's comment is also "position very interesting, co-workers quite congenial."

## State Dept. Futures Of 2 Negro Craftsmen Bright

**Chicago Defender**  
SAN FRANCISCO.—Two young Negro craftsmen at the United Nations Conference looked forward this week to unusual careers with the U. S. State Department.

Steven Wright, dapper 32-year-old Washington photographer heads the State Department's photographic laboratory. An ace photo-finisher, Wright has an all-white crew picked by himself from Civil Service lists assisting him in preparing the huge volume of photographs taken by the United States government at the historical conference.

Wright, the father of three girls, also handled the state department's photography during the famous Casa Blanca conference in North Africa. One of two Negro craftsmen working at the conference, Wright was reported scheduled to head the photograph division at the coming peace conference.

George Olden, the other colored craftsmen attached to the conference is a 26-year-old Washington cartoonist and draftsman. Olden, who was first assigned to work on the designing of the credentials buttons given to delegates by American State Department, is highly regarded by the department's chart and documentary staff where he designs visual material for its numerous publications.

Olden worked as a free-lance cartoonist before joining the conference, and has sold cartoons to such national magazines as Esquire and the New Yorker.

Against handicaps which need not be specified, the number of Negroes in the professions more than doubled in the course of a single generation after 1900. On the eve of the 1930 crash they were about 110,000, more than half of them school teachers. The law profession seems to have less attraction than medicine. The doctors were nearly four times as many as the lawyers, to the number of 4,000. There were almost as many Negro doctors as there were Negro actors and other public entertainers, though one would never suspect it from the relative prominence of the two professions. There were more than 5,000 Negro nurses.

Here again a person is free to stress the dark side of the story. The number of Negro professional workers at the beginning of the Thirties, 110,000 in all, was only 3 per cent of the entire pro-

fessional population of the country, whereas the Negroes are 10 per cent of the population. They have won only a third of their "rightful" place in the professions, to put in the customary language of protest and hot indignation.

The other approach, at the risk of falling into smugness and complacency, would emphasize the speed of Negro progress. And in any event, an army of 125,000 Negro professional workers, as they are probably today, is a sizable object on the sociological landscape. If this nation's professional workers, white and colored, were all down to the Negro ratio, there would still be more than a million of them; and we may be sure that now and then one would meet a doctor or a lawyer or a teacher in the new books.

## Women Get Jobs at Standard Oil

ELIZABETH—Through action of Dr. George Maverick, member of the board of directors of Eastern Union County Urban League, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has abandoned its policy of denying jobs to colored women.

The company recently hired colored women in an assembly operation for the first time in its Sarnoff division at Bayway, through Dr. Maverick, director of personnel.

War Chest Agency  
The league was voted membership in the Community and War Chest of Eastern Union County by the chest's board of trustees on Thursday, effective Jan. 1, 1946. It will be a participating agency in the chest campaign this fall.



# N. J. Telephone Co. To Hire Negro Operators

*Memphis World*  
Qualified Negro girls will be hired as switchboard operators by the Morristown, New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, it was announced this week by William T. Ruffin, Coordinator of the Morristown Service Council, a National Urban League cooperating agency.

In informing the Council's Employment Committee of the decision, Donald Boice, Business Manager of the Morristown telephone branch, stated: "For several years the New Jersey Belle Telephone Company has offered employment to qualified Negro girls in the clerical forces of the company's organization in many sections of the State. The same opportunity is now being offered to Negro girls who are qualified for the work to become switchboard operators, as vacancies occur in the switchboard operating force." *11-10-45*

Coordinator Ruffin disclosed that the Service Council's Employment Committee has followed an active program on minority employment integration into Morristown industries since the Committee was formed several months ago. Arthur C. Gillette, well-known lawyer, is Chairman of the Committee, and Reverend Alexander T. White of the Bethel AME Church is the Council's President.



*11-20-45*  
MISS ALICE McCLANAHAN, 2263 Seventh Avenue, Manhattan, was recently employed by the Modern Industrial Bank's main office, 116 Fifth Avenue, as file clerk. Miss McClanahan is shown at work.



*10-20-45*  
ANTONIO MALDONADO, a Puerto Rican, joined the staff of the main office of Modern Industrial Bank, 116 Fifth Avenue, in July. He works in the Delayed Analyses Department.

## Clerks At Modern Industrial Bank

## First Negro Taxi-Cab Drivers Hired In Phila.

*Savannah Tribune*  
By Harold G. Miller

Philadelphia. (ANP)—The Yellow Cab company of Philadelphia broke its long-standing policy of not employing Negroes as cab drivers Sunday with the hiring of two men for a 90-day probationary period. If they complete their probation period successfully they will be given a permanent status with the company. *11-1-45*

The two 35-year-old drivers, James Sheppard and Harry Savedge, received their appointment with the company approximately two weeks after they had made their application. Both men were

war workers prior to their present job.

Savedge made an application with Yellow Cab after he had been laid off from his job as a liner with the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., in Chester, Pa. His qualifications for his new position include previous experience as a

private chauffeur and and driver of an interstate trucking company at his former home in Elborn, Va. He and his wife, Bertha, have lived in Philadelphia for the last eight years.

This is the second application for a job as a cab driver that Sheppard had made with Yellow Cab. About three years ago he applied, and when he passed all the requirements, was offered a job as a cab washer in one of the company's garages. He refused to take the job.

Both men report that they have been shown no form of segregation or discrimination since they began working as the first Negro cab drivers with Philadelphia's largest cab company—either from the officials of the company, the other drivers, or that segment of the general public that they have come in contact with. *11-1-45*

Both Sheppard and Savedge tell of instances when the other drivers have given them tips from their experiences making their jobs easier for them.

Both men also tell of amusing and interesting incidents that have occurred since they have been working. Sheppard received an autographed \$5 bill from a prominent New Yorker after he had taken him for a 45 cent trip on his first day as a cab driver. He intends to have the bill framed and keep it as a memento. *Ma.*

Philadelphians are wondering whether the hiring of those two Negro cab drivers means that Yellow Cab means to reverse its policy of discrimination as far as jobs are concerned or whether it is an attempt by the company to fight the approval of a franchise re-



*10-20-45*  
MRS. ELAINE LINDSAY, 101 Morningside Avenue, Manhattan, has been employed at the main office of the Modern Industrial Bank, 116 Fifth Avenue, since November, 1942. Mrs. Lindsay serves as a secretary in the Commercial Department.

quested from the public utilities commission by a Negro veterans group desiring to operate cabs here.



45g-1945

# 3 Cities Accept AFRO-AMERICAN Car, Bus Drivers Baltimore, Md. Management, Union Claims Repudiated

CHICAGO—Three larger cities—Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles—have accepted the integration of colored transit workers without "appreciable public antagonism," the American Council on Race Relations reported last Friday.

The findings were revealed in a forty-eight page brochure comparing the successful integration of colored transit workers into Chicago's transportation system with the experiences of Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

## The Philadelphia Story

The upgrading of colored men as street car operators in Philadelphia resulted in a week-long strike, whereas public sentiment finally forced a showdown on their employment in Los Angeles, the report said.

While "management and union officials in Philadelphia and Los Angeles claimed that the public would refuse to accept colored streetcar and bus operators," the report added, "when the innovation was tried in these cities, however, there were no portests."

## Los Angeles Calm

"Apparently little or no notice was taken of the change in Los Angeles," said the council, and in Philadelphia "there have been almost no unpleasant incidents between patrons and colored operators."

The trouble in Philadelphia was attributed by the council largely to "the reluctance of civil leaders to make any effort to terminate the work stoppage, the attitude of company officials, and the attempt of an independent union to take over from the CIO."

# A SUCCESS STORY OF A WOMAN

Negroes of Northeastern Pennsylvania are proud of the accomplishments of the G. W. Brown Drayman Corporation of Scranton, which, under the guidance of a woman, has become one of the most successful trucking firms in the area.

In 1923, Mrs. George Brown, now president of the firm, lost

## Occupations

her husband and faced the alternatives of liquidating the business or plunging into a field in which few women dare to tread.

She had little business experience, but she had intelligence and curiosity. She decided to take a chance. If other trucking firms in Scranton were sorry for the Negro woman who had taken on this man-sized job; they were wasting their sympathy. For it wasn't long before the Brown organization was running smoothly and efficiently and gaining in size. When she took over, the concern had four motor trucks and two teams. Today its equipment consists of eight 5-ton trucks; five tractors and trailers and two lighter trucks. Employed by the firm are 17 drivers and helpers, two mechanics, a foreman, a manager and a clerk. Last year the receipts were crowding the \$100,000 mark.

## Began With One Wagon

The company was formed in 1882 by the president's late husband, George W. Brown, who came to Pennsylvania from Eastern Shore, Maryland, when he was 14 years old. He started business hauling goods from the railroad station with a horse and wagon and one of his stops was The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company store. As the A&P grew, the Brown business grew with it, and today the company works exclusively for the chain which now has a large warehouse and bakery in Scranton and more than 100 stores in the area.

Mrs. Brown, who is active in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, has had the good sense to hire capable directors for her business. Her present manager, Granville Smith, is a graduate of Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, the only Negro College supported and named by Negroes in the North. He holds a degree in business education and he has contributed much to the firm's growth.

## Astute Manager

Mrs. Brown also has been adept in handling race and labor problems. When some of the white drivers asserted they wouldn't

work for a colored woman, she established union wages, went on her way quietly and let them

think it over. They stayed to find that Mrs. Brown was a fair and considerate employer. Negroes and whites still work on the trucks.

Daughter of a Methodist minister, Mrs. Brown was born in Beaver, Pa., and attended grammar and high school in Pittsburgh. The death of her father cut short her intention of going to college. She operated a beauty shop for six years before marrying George Brown. She has been president of the Fidelis Club of the YWCA and a member of the Board of Directors of the Progressive Recreational and Social Service Association. She is an able public speaker with an extensive knowledge of Negro poetry.

# Stores Supervisor Listens to Employees' Woes as She Teaches

By LOUIS DYSON

NEW YORK — Recently appointed to the position of chief supervisor of 27 Spotless Cleaning Stores in the mid-town area of Manhattan, Mrs. Adelle Peer, of 120 W. 138th St., is the first colored woman in New York to be given such responsibility.

She directs the duties of eight colored and white junior supervisors and more than 50 employees.

Her employer, Louis Denberg, president of the Spotless Cleaning Co., once made this remark about her:

"Here is a little girl who has a dual personality. She fights for her girls and looks out for the company's interests at the same time."

## Began at Bottom

In an exclusive interview at her home this week, Mrs. Peer, who looks more like an actress than a retail store supervisor, told the AFRO that when she first accepted the job of supervisor, the salary was slim.

"I took it to blaze the path for other colored girls, and it has proved successful because several junior supervisors have been appointed in many sections of the city."

"I started work in Spotless way back in 1939 as a clerk and I was on payroll one day when they made me assistant manager of

Price Control Office  
Philadelphia  
Hires 1,250 Negroes  
6-30-45 Pa.

Following the trend towards fuller utilization of all available manpower, the Office of Price Administration has increased the number of Negroes employed in its field offices by more than 54 per cent during the last year, an analysis of field reports by Miss Frances Williams, special assistant to Administrator Chester Bowles, indicated this week.

OPA's nine regional and 93 district offices have 114 Negro professional workers, 905 clerical workers and 231 unskilled workers, making a total of 1,250 persons. These figures do not include Negro personnel employed at the national office in Washington.



their 114th St. and 8th Ave. store. After one year, I was manager. Then they began sending me around from one store to another to get them into shape. Two years ago, I was made a supervisor."

She travels by bus, train and trolley from one store to another checking on general business, training girls on how to run their counters, and listening to their headaches and illnesses.

"When I come across girls who complain of headaches, I just rub on their heads and they feel better," she laughed.

## Wins Co-operation

"I don't know what it is to walk into a store and not get the employees to co-operate with me. They even call up to find out if anything's wrong when I can't come around to see them."

"My work is more than a job to me. I get particular pleasure and a kick out of it. I'd like to continue with Spotless as long as I am as happy as I am now."

All of the store under her supervision are located in an area from 110th St. to 162nd St. and from Second Ave. to Broadway. Each store generally has about three girls.

Born in Houston, Texas, 30 years ago, Mrs. Peer was educated there and attended Prairie View College. She taught piano in Houston before coming to New York seven years ago. She has also studied at the Braithwaite Business School here.

# Woman Pioneers In Army Course On Electronics

Miss Anna Billings, of 3934 Brown street, is engaged in a field into which few colored women have ventured. Working at the 859th Army Air Forces Specialized Depot, 1620 south 49th street, her duties consist of identifying and inspecting all types of radio material and assisting other sections in technical matters.

Miss Billings attended the Pennsylvania State School of Aeronautics at Harrisburg, when she was employed at Olmsted Field, Middletown, Pa. There she learned the fundamentals of Electrical and radio theory after which she attended electronic classes at Pennsylvania State College. Upon completion of the course, she was fortunate to be among the group sent to take an advanced course in radio at the Philco Training School in Philadelphia.

She was the first colored Philadelphian to complete pre-radar training at Philco. She is now attending Temple University for further study in electronics and television under the direction of H. C. Lawrence.

Miss Billings enjoys her work and states if more women would think more seriously about this broad field with its limitless future it would mean permanent industrial and future security for them.



# Plant Agrees To Hire Negro Women After FEPC Order

*Savannah Tribune - Ga.*  
ZANESVILLE, Ohio, (ANP)—  
1-25-45  
Regardless of race, creed or color, Lino Material, a war plant here, will hire additional workers, officials agreed after the FEPC interceded. This promise which primarily concerned the hiring of Negro women, must become a reality by February 28 or the committee will resume its probe. Emmanuel Black, hearing commissioner, revealed.

The Lino Material company which is engaged in the production of shells and radar components, had steadfastly refused to consider the employment of Negro women. Action against this practice began in early 1943 when the United Electrical Workers, CIO, at the suggestion of John Thornton, former Columbus labor organizer, gathered a group of women together and suggested that they apply for jobs at the plant.

Immediately a group of 25 women went to the plant, one half in the morning and the others in the afternoon. After a long delay these women were finally given forms to fill out. When a period of three months passed and the women had received no answer to their applications they wrote Paul V. McNutt, war manpower commissioner, who in turn gave their letter to the FEPC.

1-25-45  
At an all day meeting Friday between the plant officials and representatives of FEPC, Ernest Snell, U. S. employment head, Zanesville, testified that all of the other war plants in that area employed Negro women, and declared that these women worked alongside white employees in perfect harmony. The contention on the part of company officials, that FEPC had no jurisdiction in the case, was overruled by Black.

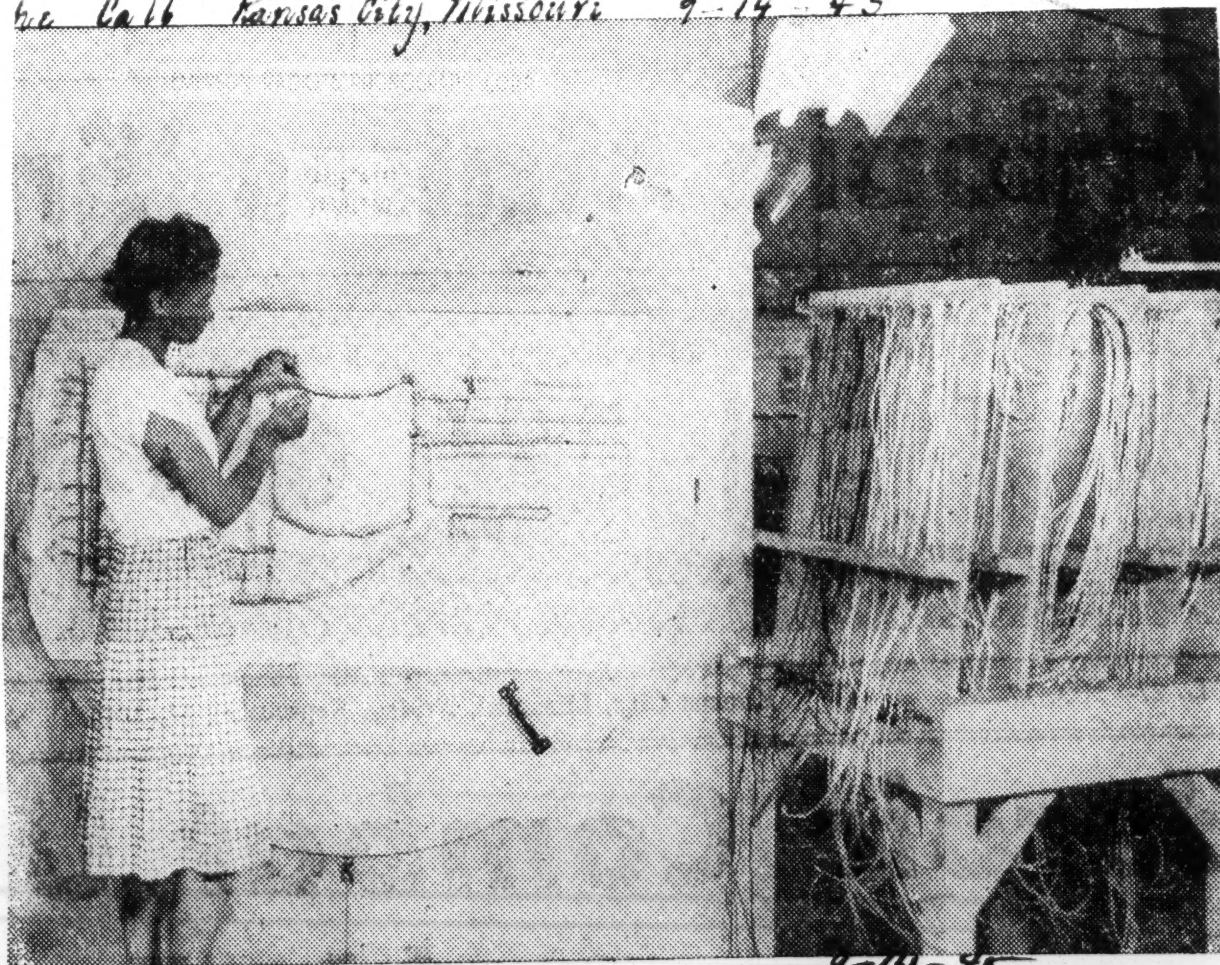
Attention was called to the fact that while Lina Material gave employment to a Negro woman of fair complexion,

the woman's employment however, was terminated when it was learned that she was colored.

## Harlem Bank Hires Negro

*People Voice*  
N. Y., N. Y.  
A Negro girl can be seen alongside a white girl behind the "Adjustor" window at the Manufacturers Trust Company, 57 W 125 st. She is Miss Jacqueline Gill, the first Negro employed in the bank. Miss Gill's employment comes just two weeks after the central personnel office of the Manufacturers Trust Company promised a delegation of Harlem leaders that they would consider and appoint qualified Negro applicants to jobs in the Harlem branch banks. James A. Taylor, manager of the branch where Miss Gill works, said that she is being broken in "on the racks" (check-clearing department), from which she would normally go to bookkeeping. Then, if she shows ability, she can expect promotion to teller or any other position open in the bank. 7-21-45

*he Call Kansas City, Missouri* 9-14-45



**KNOWS 131 WIRES BY NAME.**—Miss Perzelia Mercer, the most versatile cable maker in Emerson Radio and Phonograph corporation of New York city. Miss Mercer, who is employed on a secret navy project, knows by memory the size, color and gauge of every one of the 131 wires that go into the harness she handles. Since starting the job she has trained five other workers, white and colored, to perform this task. Her foreman says she can spot

a piece of wire on the floor and instantly give its number and position on the board. This cable designed by Emerson Radio engineers is one of the largest cables used today illustrating how well American industry was converted to war needs. Emerson Radio, largest manufacturer of small radios in peace time, displayed versatility in handling large instrument projects.

## Female Radio Engineer Honoured With Party

*West African*  
Pilot  
In honour of Miss Olga Rhodes, daughter of the Hon. S. B. Rhodes, C.B.E., and Mrs. Rhodes, who recently arrived from England, Miss O. M. Abayomi, M.B.E., recently gave a tea party in her residence, 18, Broad Street. 10-12-45

An enjoyable time was spent and the spirit of conviviality prevailed throughout. 2agar

The hostess proposed the toast of the chief guest in sweet terms referring to her great achievement in the pioneering work of radio engineering which she has successfully studied and for which she had obtained a Diploma. 9-12-45

Miss Olga Rhodes and her mother replied suitably.

The following were invited to meet the guest of honour:

Mrs. S. B. Rhodes, Lady Alakija, Mesdames O. Alakija, T. Alakija, D. Johnson, F. Soetan, A. Phillips, J. I. C. Taylor, Ena Knox-Maxwell (from Freetown) A. Adesigbin, T. Akiyemi, R. Doherty, D. M. Tugh (Secretary, YWCA) O. Lucas, E. McEwen, J. J. Marinho, E. Ejiwumi, A. Adedoyin. 10-12-45

Misses V. Moss, A. Alakija, V. M. Bucknor, O. Moore, R. W. Adeney, (YWCA) H. Roberts (British Council) and U. Morton (Social Worker) Church Missionary Society.

### Philip Morris Hires

### Negro As Salesman

*People Voice*  
Manufacturers of Philip Morris cigarettes have hired a Negro salesman, Herbert H. Wright.

He formerly held positions as district manager for the Atlanta Life insurance company, chief of payroll division for civilian personnel at Tuskegee Army Air Base, and recently as director of the Nepperhan Community Center, Yonkers. 11-17-45





**GOOD WORK—70 YEARS OF IT—** has been put in by these three workers, who represent scores of Negroes selected to get work merit awards Aug. 12 at a rally at Carver Park. Edward J. Turner (left) has driven streetcars since

1899. Charles B. Presley (right), a molder foreman at the Eberhard Manufacturing Co., started there in 1923. Mrs. Mildred Neal (center) has been an OPA stenographer since 1944.

**CLEVELAND, O.  
PLAIN DEALER**

Circ. D. 218,415 - S. 405,226

**AUG 3 - 1945**

## NEGROES' TOIL TO WIN THEM REWARD

**Scores Will Be Honored for  
Achievements at Rally**

**BY TOD SIMON**

Cable cars were still on our streets and the one-truck Tooner-ville-type trolley jerked and rocked Clevelanders to work when Edward J. Turner became a motorman.

That was in 1899. Turner, 68, is now tops in seniority at the Woodhill carbarns and maybe throughout the city.

He got his job with the "Big

Consolidated," the Cleveland Electric Railway Co., as Negroes often had to, on a fluke. He was taken on as a strike-breaker.

But he got along with boss and workman and was asked to join the union when peace set in. Now he is the kind of union man who keeps his dues paid a month or so in advance.

Turner was taken on with some 20 other Negroes. The others dropped off the pay roll one by one until he was, in 1911, the only one left. No other Negroes were hired for jobs on cars—only for laboring jobs and the like in the maintenance-of-way department.

### Workers to be Honored

Even in the labor-short days of World War I, when Negroes were beckoned, lured and sent here by thousands from cotton fields and fruit groves, no Negroes went on the cars.

Now they have won their way to jobs like Turner's, and patrons and managers agree there was no point in excluding them for all these years. Turner has been breaking in quite a few of them.

On Aug. 12, a week from Sunday, he and scores of other Negro workers are going to be honored for good, steady, efficient, high-

score performance at a "merit rally." The Urban League of Cleveland is sponsor. The rally will be at Carver Park, 2382 Unwin Road S. E.

Negro men and women, some early Clevelanders like Turner, some who came in the great northward wave of the first war and some later arrivals, will get their musical and verbal orchids there.

### Came from Alabama

A 1919 arrival, Charles B. Presley, 45, of 2176 E. 84th Street, will be one of them. He came from Birmingham, Ala., and hired on as a molder at several foundries before going to the Eberhard Manufacturing Co., where he is now a molder foreman and instructor.

"When I went to work here not one word of English was spoken in the casting department," Presley said. "The other people were all new here from Europe."

"But I made myself understood, and we got along then and we get along now, and there are about nine different nationalities working here."

Presley is proud of being Democratic committeeman in Precinct N, Ward 18, where Mayor Thomas A. Burke edged out his opposition in the primary election Tuesday.

Another on the merit list is Arthur Stinson, 41, of 2242 E. 70th Street. He has a sweet job. He is foreman in the pop bottling department of the Miller-Becker Co. 6411 Central Avenue S. E.

### Directs 48 Workers

Stinson has been there 15 years. He began as a laborer and wound up in charge of 48 women, men and boys, who pack and inspect gallons of colas and sodas.

Stinson was a sand mixer in a foundry before he got into the beverage works.

Still newer to the working world is Mrs. Mildred Neal, 28, an OPA stenographer who lives at 9204 Quincy Avenue S. E. She was one of the first Negro office workers to join the district office of OPA, and "one of the most conscientious workers here," according to a statement sent to the Urban League.

Mrs. Neal came here from Macon, Ga., when she was 5. She went to John Hay High School, studied shorthand and typing and rang up a high score on her civil service examination.

There is Norman Talbot, 56, of 27150 Kinsman Road S. E., who has been with the Bailey Co., since 1904 as a receiving clerk, among other old-timers.



45h-1945

# WDL Offers \$1,000 Reward In Fight Against Florida Peonage

In an advertisement in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Daily News, the Workers Defense League announced that it would pay \$1,000 reward "for information leading to the arrest and first conviction of persons for 'peonage or involuntary servitude' in Florida." The advertisement, placed by Rev. Aron S. Gilmartin, chairman of the National Executive Board of the Workers Defense League, will be carried in Miami daily papers, paid for by Miami citizens who heard Rev. Gilmartin report on the mass arrests, on vagrancy charges, and fining without trials of responsible Negro citizens of Fort Lauderdale. These arrests, Gilmartin declared, were part of an effort to force Negro workers to accept any employment offered "regardless of wages or conditions—a new form of slavery."

Replying to the advertisement, Sheriff Clark of Broward County declared he too would welcome evidence of peonage.

"We are just enforcing vagrancy laws," the sheriff said. "With American soldiers working under terrible conditions at the battle fronts, we have no intention of permitting idleness and loitering here."

Vagrants when arrested are entitled to, and are given, all privileges under the law, including habeas corpus and jury trial, if they are demanded, Clark said.

At variance with Sheriff Clark's statement, the WDL again pointed out that its investigation had shown facts which warrant federal indictment:

1. Fourteen, eight men and six women, were arrested by Chief Deputy Sheriff Robert H. Clark of Broward County at the farm of Mayor Dewey Hawkins of Oakland Park, Florida, on February 9, 1944, when they refused to accept employment picking beans in a field which they ascertained had been picked twice before. They were charged with vagrancy and fined amounts

ranging from \$20 to \$35 by the sheriff. None of the prisoners were tried in court.

2. Seven men were picked up in the Negro business district of Ft. Lauderdale on Friday, March 24, about 11 a. m. by Deputy Sheriff Wittkamp and City Policeman Joe Similey and lodged in the county jail where they were charged with vagrancy. At least two of the men worked regularly at night jobs at Port Everglades, the harbor on the waterfront of Ft. Lauderdale. They were off duty at the time of their arrest. Each of the longshoremen was fined \$35 without being tried.

Approximately twenty men were jailed as a result of a round-up in the Negro business district of Ft. Lauderdale by Chief Deputy Sheriff Robert H. Clark of Broward County on Saturday, March 25, 1944. The men were placed in the county jail and charged with vagrancy. At least two of the men, Horace Dudley and Willie Williams were members of Local 1526, International Longshoremen's Association (AFL) who were off duty at the time of their arrests. Another of the men charged with vagrancy, a farm helper by the name of Fleming Henderson, had a bank account of \$150 at the time of his arrest. Willie Williams paid a fine of \$19.85, and Horace Dudley and Fleming Henderson paid fines of \$35 each. None of the three appeared in court or received sentences, although one was given a receipt for "court costs."

## Florida Daily Backs

Atlanta World Co.

## Anti-Peonage Fight

MIAMI. (WDL)—The Miami Daily News editorially went to bat for the rights of Negro workers who have been victims of mass arrests and fined without trials at the hands of Sheriff Walter Clark at nearby Fort Lauderdale. Chiding a federal grand jury

Florida

# Charge Peonage Is Widespread In Fla.

NEW YORK CITY — (SNS) — "Involuntary servitude is commonplace in Florida," reported Morris Milgram, Workers Defense League national secretary, after a month's work there on cases of peonage and involuntary servitude, which the League has brought to the attention of the Department of Justice for prosecution.

In central Florida, Milgram reported, Negro citrus workers employed regularly five days a week have been arrested for "vagrancy" because they refuse to work Saturdays. These cases never come to trial, the WDL leader declared, for the workers pay \$25 bond in order to be released. It is commonly understood that the bond is the fine, and that no appearance for trial is desired by public officials involved.

The result of these arrests is to force citrus workers to labor against their will, fearing arrest. While they would work willingly if they received extra pay for Saturday work, many Negro workers now work Saturdays only under threat of imprisonment.

to the application of the opposite policy in Fort Lauderdale. The cases should not be allowed to rest. It will not do to condone injustice."

The paper owned by former Ohio Governor James M. Cox, pointed out "the fact that only Negroes were caught up in the vagrancy dragnet, that these Negroes were denied their day in court, and that the probably innocent were punished with the guilty. And, that just isn't justice under the American Constitution and the laws of Florida."

Declaring that failure to indict was "dangerous laxity," the editorial continued, "Here were cases which did not in the remotest way touch on political philosophy or on theories of social equality. They were cases which involved plain, elemental justice. They involved the right of any American to decent treatment by the police and to a fair trial in the courtroom. They involved the right of the innocent not to be punished for offenses which they obviously did not commit. They involved the right of American citizens of any color, not to be forced to submit to the kind of treatment that revolts us when it is practiced by our enemies in Asia and Europe."

which recently failed to indict anyone for the mass arrests which the Workers Defense League exposed, the white daily suggested that a new grand jury hear the cases:

"It is too bad that the federal grand jury was unable or unwilling to administer a permanent check



# WDL ACCUSES SHERIFF OF TERRORISM Victims Flee As Threats Are Made Of Further Harm

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) —The Department of Justice is investigating several Florida cases of legal intimidation to force Negro workers to work for substandard wages on Saturday. The sheriff of Lake County, Fla., is accused also of terrorism by the Workers Defense League.

WDL, filing affidavits by Negro workers in citrus groves who had been arrested for not working on Saturday, had asked for an investigation by the Department of Justice. Since then at least two of the informants, Mack Fryar and Nathan Bailey, both victims of violence at the hands of Sheriff Willis McCall, have fled their homes on threats of further harm. Threats that his friends might lynch those concerned with the cases were reported made by the sheriff against both whites and Negroes.

## BRITISH CITIZENS ARRESTED

Among the Negroes arrested were some British citizens from the Bahama Islands. These men were brought into the United States on a contract calling for a minimum wage of \$3 a day. Had they gone to work on the jobs offered the Saturday they did not work, they would have earned \$1.20 to \$2.10 a day.

The practice, according to facts given in the affidavits, is to jail Negroes not working on Saturday and charge them with vagrancy. A bail bond, usually \$25, is set. This is later forfeited by its consignment as a fine. No record of a trial has been established in any of the cases.

## STRIKES FRYAR

Mr. Fryar, one of the workers, alleges that Sheriff McCall came to his home in Leesburg, on the first Saturday in February. Fryar asked why when told he must go with the sheriff. The reply was, "None of your damn jaw." After Sheriff McCall insisted, Mr. Fryar turned to get his hat and was struck on the head with a blackjack, cutting a deep gash. Unconscious and bleed-

ing, he was taken to jail and left without medical care for two days. His wife, who with their 14-year-old son had witnessed the assault, posted bond on Monday and he was allowed to return home.

Ordered to appear in county court on April 10, Mr. Fryar did so, and was told by the county prosecutor to "go home and forget about it." Asked about the bond which has been posted, the prosecutor said it would be sent to him later. Fryar says he never received the money. Mr. Fryar, home owner and a resident of Leesburg for 21 years was regularly employed and had earned \$46.50 at the time he was arrested.

## FLEES VIOLENCE

Mr. Bailey, who like Mr. Fryar left his home to avoid further violence, was arrested at his home in Eustis, the Monday following Fryar's arrest by James Dickerson, policeman. The officer said he had an order from Sheriff McCall to arrest Bailey for vagrancy. This despite the fact that Bailey worked five days the week before and was boarding a truck to work the day he was arrested. Questioned by the man who was in charge of the truck, Dickerson said that Bailey's fine for not working on Saturday was \$25.

This amount his wife later paid for bond after Mr. Bailey had refused this summary assessment of a fine. Released on bond, he asked about his trial date. On that date, February 13, Bailey waited in court from 9 to 11:30 a. m. at which time the judge dismissed the jury, telling Mr. Bailey, "If you want to wait till afternoon for trial it will have to go before the jury. I'm satisfied it will cost you more. You'd be better off if you went home." This he did. Following receipt of the affidavits by the Department of Justice, Mr. Bailey was assaulted in his home by the sheriff accompanied by Officer Dickerson. Shortly thereafter, he left Eustis. Investigation of these cases and other similar ones is underway.

## Dept. of Justice Investigating Fla. Slavery Cases

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standard wages on Saturday. The sheriff of Lake County, Fla., is accused also of terrorism by the Workers Defense League.

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47h-1945

## 2 GI's to Hang, 3rd Given Life

Convicted of Attack  
on 2 German Women—  
NO FORCE USED  
Candy, Cigarettes  
Accepted as Pay

By VINCENT TUBBS  
AFRO War Correspondent with  
U.S. Troops in Germany  
[Copyright. Reproduction in whole  
or in part expressly forbidden.]  
WITH SEVENTH ARMY IN  
GERMANY—In the first general  
court-martial held inside Germany  
by this Army, two colored sol-  
diers have been sentenced to hang  
and a third to life imprisonment  
for rape of two German women—  
one about 20, the other around  
40 and described as a "hag."  
The men involved, who admit-  
ted sexual relations, but for a con-  
sideration of chocolates and cig-  
arettes which they gave the wo-  
men, are Pfc. Harold Williams of  
New Orleans, and Luster Wright  
of Cleveland, Quartermaster  
troopers who must hang, and T/3  
Carey Pugh of Earling, W.Va., sig-  
nal construction soldier, who drew  
life.

### Town Official Present

The testimony was heard by five  
colonels and a major who took  
time out from their military ob-  
jective of slaughtering the Ger-  
mans to try the case before the  
town's burgermeister, who was  
present ostensibly for the purpose  
of relaying the verdict to the  
townspeople.

It was brought out by the testi-  
mony that the men were armed  
when they entered a Dittigheim  
house and found two women and  
a boy, 9. Cigarettes were offered  
to and accepted by the women.  
No outcry was made and there  
were no evidences of physical  
violence.

### Name Learned from Letter

First reports were made to  
American authorities late the fol-  
lowing day and identification was  
established from the fact that Wil-  
liams is said to have sat on the  
bedside after the initial act and  
read a letter from his wife, dur-  
ing which time one of the women  
noted his name.

## 3 Negro Yanks Convicted of Rape Of German Women

Tauberbischofsheim, Germany,  
April 14 (AP).—Three American  
Negro soldiers were convicted of  
rape today by a court-martial which  
sentenced two to be hanged and  
a third to life imprisonment.

The complainants, two German  
women, were in court when the  
verdict was announced. The hus-  
band of one thanked an American  
Army officer for the verdict.

"We didn't do this to please  
you," the officer snapped. "We  
did it to maintain discipline. Do  
you think the German army would  
have done the same if the situa-  
tion were reversed?"

The German mumbled, "No and  
I'm not for Hitler," and hurried  
away.

The sentences are subject to  
review by General Eisenhower.

Three white soldiers are to be  
tried next week on rape charges.

## Soldiers Serve Long Terms For Alleged Attack

### Evidence Shows

### Commercial

### Transaction

WASHINGTON —(ANP) —The  
war department last week official-  
ly rejected clemency for Pvt. Frank  
Fisher Jr. and Edward R. Louri,  
the two principals of the case. The  
"Army's Scottsboro" case. The two  
soldiers, both volunteers, are now  
serving six and eight year  
sentences in a federal penitentiary.

Both soldiers were originally  
sentenced by court-martial to  
life imprisonment on a rape charge  
but upon intervention by Rep. Vito  
Marcantonio, president of the In-  
ternational Labor defense, and  
former Judge William H. Hastie,  
NAACP legal advisor, the life  
sentences were commuted.

### APPEAL IN '44

The clemency appeal was filed  
by Marcantonio and Hastie with  
President Roosevelt on June 10, 1944.

### Foreign

was notified of the war depart-  
ment. When Rep. Marcantonio  
was notified of the war depart-  
ment's rejection of clemency for  
the two soldiers, he said:

"The decision is an outrage.  
These men are innocent. There is  
no question about that. They were  
framed by 'white supremacy'  
officers in the United States army.  
They should be free.

"The case will be appealed to  
the nation. A national board meet-  
ing of the International Labor de-  
fense next week will lay plans for  
a new appeal directly to President  
Truman, and involvement of every  
decent American citizen in the  
campaign to overturn the army's  
outrageous determination to keep  
these men imprisoned."

### COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION

Pvts. Fisher and Louri were sen-  
tenced to life imprisonment on  
charges of "rape" while serving in  
the Pacific theater of war. Both  
were army volunteers. The evi-  
dence at their trial showed con-  
clusively that the incident on which  
the "rape" charge was based was  
a commercial transaction with a  
willing prostitute. Other evidence  
which further bolstered this con-  
clusion even more was suppressed  
by the officers, and never pre-  
sented to the court-martial.

Fisher and Louri, now serving  
in the federal penitentiary at Mc  
Neils Island were charged and  
convicted in 1943.

### Ike Saves GI Defender From Death Sentence

NEW YORK — Pvt. Robert J.  
Johnson, Negro soldier from Mis-  
sissippi, was saved from death  
when Gen. Dwight Eisenhower  
commuted his sentence to dishon-  
orable discharge and life imprison-  
ment, the War department an-  
nounced this week.

Johnson was charged with "rape"  
of a German woman.  
Gen. Eisenhower had been asked  
to make a thorough review of the  
case by Milton Becker GI rights  
bureau director of the International  
Labor Defense. The organization  
received information which indi-  
cated that Johnson had been  
framed by "white-supremacy"-  
minded military police.

Rep. Vito Marcantonio, president  
of the ILD, announced that efforts  
will continue to obtain further re-  
view. Evidence apparently not con-  
sidered in the official record in-  
dicated that Johnson was actually  
asleep in army quarters when the  
life alleged offense was committed.

## Man Who "Forced" Girl Gets 10 Years

Nigerian Spokes Man  
Onitsha, Africa  
ENUGU Dec. 17.—In the Supreme  
Court last week a sentence of 10 years'  
imprisonment with 12 strokes of the cane  
was passed on Geoffrey Oawunere for  
forcing intercourse on 13 year-old girl.

Four witnesses were called by the  
prosecution led by Inspector S. N.  
Udokwu including Dr E. Bassey, who  
examined the accused and the com-  
plainant.

The accused according to the chief  
witness, came to the house and when  
going had asked her to escort him  
some way and she did so.

On the way the accused tied her  
already deformed hands together and  
had intercourse.

He promised giving her five shillings  
after changing a currency he had.

He then ran but she followed him.

On the way they met Cordelia the  
sister of the complainant who was  
returning from school.

She told her the story.

A police constable Irusa Osaye  
came and after hearing the story  
arrested the accused.

Several stained clothes, belonging  
to both male and female were ten-  
dered in evidence.

The accused who had no witness  
denied the charge and said he merely  
owed the girl three pence.

When he went to their house the  
girl followed him and insisted on  
having the money.

As she held him, he pushed her and  
she fell and was injured.



# M a c o Police Strike Again

*Bayanah*  
*Interno* *Ha*

MACON, GA. (ANP)— More than 200 alleged loiterers were seized by Macon police recently in the annual drive to make all Negroes go to work in this section or be jailed. The drive is a recurring affair usually coming about fruit or cotton harvesting time.

*8-1-43*  
The police swooped down on pool rooms, eating places, beer parlors and various other places making approximately 20 trips to take the arrested to city hall for questioning. Those furnishing proper identifications of employment were released.

Before Judge George Nettingham of recorder's court 16 were given the choice of paying a \$100 fine or serving 60 days in the city stockade, while three were fined \$200 or 120 days. Each defendant whose case was dismissed was warned by Judge Nettingham to go to work or stay away from the places of arrest.



# Murder Farm Bared, Infant Burned Alive

*Baltimore Md.*

*Afro-American*

MANCHESTER, Tenn.—Held virtually in bondage, a man and his wife escaped Thursday night from a nearby tourist camp to inform police of ghoulish operations at the place which are believed to have led to the death of one newly-born infant and the destruction of the bodies of four others.

The story of the couple, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Ramsay, has resulted in the arrest of three white persons on charges of murder, according to Sheriff Sam Banks of this county.

Investigating the secluded tourist camp, which is near two Army camps, the sheriff reported finding evidence which substantiated the Ramseys' information that a newly-born infant had been burned to death and the bodies of four others destroyed. 12-1-45

Under arrest are H. H. Peters, 65, tourist camp operator; Mrs. Peters and her son, Harry F. Carraway, who were lodged in the Fayetteville, Tenn., jail on charges of murdering "a person or persons unknown."

The sheriff declared officers found on the ash heap four baby dresses, a small bone and flesh wrapped in charred paper.

The infants were destroyed between the period of Oct. 18 and Nov. 22, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey contend.

The couple, who said they had not been paid in two months, described to Sheriff Banks how they had to escape after nightfall. Peters, they said, had threatened their lives, if they left the camp.

Sheriff Banks quoted Mrs. Ramsey as saying the babies were brought to the camp on five different days, which she marked on the calendar as Oct. 18, 24 and Nov. 8, 14, and 19.

They were immediately soaked in oil or gasoline, placed on a pile of wood and cremated.

The Ramseys said they took no part in the alleged cremations, Sheriff Banks declared. They were hired to do domestic work about the place. 12-1-45

He quoted Mrs. Ramsey as saying the baby burned alive appeared to be white.

Peters, his wife and her son, denied any part in the death and cremation. They termed the story of the Ramseys "an outrageous lie."

Peters said his family recently gave the couple portions of several hogs and chickens to dispose of, and claimed that would account for the bone and flesh found by the officers.

They offered no explanation for the presence of the four baby dresses. 12-1-45



# Everything worth fighting for

*the Worker*  
By WALTER LOWENFELS  
*new York, N.Y.*  
PHILADELPHIA

**S**OUTHERN and Northern CIO Tobacco workers are forging a holy alliance on the eight-week-old American Tobacco Company picket line. Some of the leading Negro and white citizens of Secretary of State Byrnes' home state of South Carolina are on it. They have come up from the Lucky Strike company's strike-bound Charleston plant to march with Negro and white strikers who have kept the Philadelphia and Trenton plants shut tight since Oct. 15.

About everything in the country that is worth fighting for is being fought for by these few thousand men and women, mostly women, many of them Negroes. Talk about the 65-cent minimum wage law?

"I'm getting only 45 cents—we're asking for 65 cents," Mrs. Willadine Blankenship told us. "It was only 40 cents before we won a five-cent raise last September. After the raise, and after deductions, I was taking home \$17.63 a week."

Mrs. Blankenship — everyone in the strike headquarters next door to the shut down plant calls her Willie—is 20, prettier than her picture, and has left her two children down in Charleston. With her in the strike kitchen, telling us about South Carolina, was Irene Reid, a beautiful Negro girl, shop steward in the Charleston plant.

Talk about fair employment practices? "We're asking for a non-discrimination clause in the contract," Irene Reid told us, and I wish there was room to tell the troubles she has in settling grievances with white supervisors and foreladies in South Carolina.

"The Charleston plant has mostly Negro women," Ruell Stanfield, president of the Charleston local, chimed in. "The like any other southern white girl. If Byrnes' state. Peg Kendig, Philadelphia strike committee secretary, told us: "Right here a partition divides white from black on the floors. We have different hours for eating and for going to work, and different washrooms." Emil Dean, international organizer for the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers, and Jessica Rhine, international representative, both of whom share 24-hour duty on the night and day picket line, told us how all the efforts to divide the workers had failed.

"Weren't you raised under 'white supremacy'?" I asked Willie. Talk about the new South? Listen to this young

**Strikers at the American Tobacco Company —they're mostly Negro and white women— want a wage increase. But they also want fair employment practices and an end to the company's jimcrow tricks in the plants.**

*Stickers which the strikers use list products of the American Tobacco Co.*

is what everyone calls Flora Raeney. She has a son in the army. When the strike started, she grabbed a picket sign: "Out of the Foxhole—onto the Dole?" she has kept it for eight weeks as her personal sign.

"I started here 17 years ago at \$8 a week. Worked from 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Now I'm getting 54 cents an hour. We



*"Coffee and . . ." warm up these women as they come off the picket line and step into the strike kitchen at American Tobacco Co.'s 68th & Greenway plant in Philadelphia.*

—Photos by Michael Denning.

have been working overtime, so it's about \$25 a week after deductions."

A group of men came in to the kitchen slapping themselves from the December cold. "What have you been taking home?" Harry Hansen—\$30.01; Thomas Jenkins—\$28.25; Andrew Johnson—\$30.32. "And that's with overtime—52 hours pay for 48. We'll be down to less than \$25 when straight time starts." "How can you support a family on \$30?" "You can't," they said simply, and started sipping hot coffee.

Everyone but the American Tobacco Co. seems to know it. Sen. Francis Myers (D-Pa) is for their demands for a 65-

**DON'T BUY**

**LUCKY STRIKE  
PALL MALL  
CIGARS**

La Corona  
Henry Clay  
Bock y Ca  
Cabanas  
Antonio y Cleopatra  
El Roi Tan  
Chancellor  
Cremo

**Unfair To  
Organized Labor**

cents minimum and no discrimination, and has told the Senate the company can pay it without raising prices. Congressman William Granahan (D-Pa), who marched on the picket line the other day, said: "The American Tobacco Co. in 1941 to 1944 paid an average of \$13,833,945 in excess profits taxes. A 25-cent an hour wage increase for 2,500 workers working 40 hours per week for 52 weeks would be \$1,300,000, less than 10 percent of the annual tax the company will no longer have to pay the government."





Strikers at the American Tobacco Co. are all members of the CIO's Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers.



45j-1945

# 30 Nurses On Strike

See 586 - Nurses

## At Provident Hospital

Chicago Defender  
By R. GOLDSBERRY

Thirty graduate nurses at Provident hospital went on strike this week. **Ill.**

The nurses, some of whom have been on the staff at Provident for a number of years, claimed that they were forced to strike because hospital management failed to recognize their union as a bargaining agent.

Among the lowest paid in Chicago hospitals, these women in white who perform the duties of orderlies and maids in addition to their regular routine, want a raise in pay and better working conditions.

### State Demands 9-15-45

Hospital officials have been blamed for their refusal to hear the dissatisfied nurses state their grievances, a spokesman for the group said.

Their demands, asserted John Arnett, official of the Building Service and Municipal Employees Organization, are as follows:

1. A minimum wage rate of \$135 a month instead of the present \$100.
2. A 40 hour working week, and time and one half for each hour exceeding 40. Present hours are 45 to 48 without overtime compensation.
3. Progressive sick leave with pay, three weeks to one month depending on individual status.
4. A special infirmary for ill nurses.
5. Full maintenance for married nurses who do not live in the nurses' home.
6. One month vacation with pay, depending on length of service.

Officials of the hospital had been notified of the strike a month ago, the nurses claimed but they have been reluctant in their effort to negotiate a satisfactory settlement of their complaints.

Miss Betsy Overton, director of nurses, asserted that she did not know of any grievances existing among the nurses.

"If they have any," she informed the Defender, "I do not know about them. They have told me nothing."

Miss Overton branded the strikers as being "unfair to the patients by walking out like that." Salaries are set by the board of trustees, headed by Whitner Fitzhugh, she concluded.

### Nurses Dissatisfied

Several nurses declared that Charles Beckett, comptroller of the hospital, whacked the vacation period from one month to 18 days and also slashed salaries.

When the nurses first made it

known that they had become dissatisfied with the setup at Provident, one of the officials was quoted as saying "that Negro nurses should be pleased under present working conditions. They should not expect more money because they could live cheaper than white nurses."

One of the nurses who was formerly employed at Cook County hospital, said she received \$135 a month, the base pay while working at that institution.

Union officials proclaimed that the nurses are being pushed around by the management who are stubborn in their refusal to deal with union representation.

"The nurses will not report for work until their demands are met or arbitrated to their satisfaction," declared Clarence Kigk, union representative.

### Hospital Lacks Funds

Dr. H. V. Wilburn, medical director of Provident, claims that limited resources of the nonprofit and nonself sustaining institution prevent management from meeting the demands made by the union.

"I am interested in the improvement and welfare of the nurses," said Dr. Wilburn. "I would like for Provident to be outstanding in its relationship with its nurses, and I stand ready and willing, to the extent of our financial capacity, to do all that I can for them."

Picturing Provident as a nonprofit voluntary general hospital without any endowment funds, Dr. Wilburn said that the institution must go to the public and beg for funds to meet an annual deficit which ranges from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Staff physicians, he said, have contributed around \$20,000, in addition to giving a large amount of free service to needed patients, to help the financial situation.

Salaries paid to nurses at Provident, he said, meet the basic salary range recommended by the Illinois State Department of Nurses.

Basic salary for duty nurses is \$1,200 a year plus maintenance. Differential is based on the length of service for each, which amounts to \$32.50 a year but not to exceed 10 years. These arrangements were effective prior to Jan. 1, 1945. For each year after Jan. 1, 1945, there is a yearly increase of \$65 a year until the total differential for length of service reaches \$300 a year.

But the nurses wonder why janitors, yardmen, handymen, watchmen, and kitchen helpers have a bi-weekly minimum salary range of \$52.50 and a maximum of \$62.50, while their basic pay is \$100 a month.

## Illinois

Dr. Wilburn has promised that he "will meet every justifiable grievance of our nurses that our facilities and capacity will permit."



45j-1945

Louisiana

# Shipyard Hires Skilled Negro, 3500 Whites Out

By JOHN LEFLORE

(Defender Staff Correspondent)

capacities at the Todd-Johnson Dry  
Docks, as well as their war indus-  
tries.

NEW ORLEANS.—The employ-  
ment of a Negro boilermaker at  
the Todd-Johnson Dry Docks yard  
led to a walk-out last Tuesday of  
3500 white workers, who have re-  
fused to return to their jobs de-  
spite an appeal from navy officials.

Contrary to Associated Press  
news releases the question involved  
does not relate to the employment  
of a Negro as a "semi-skilled boil-  
ermaker who would have had a  
white helper." The Defender has  
been reliably informed that the is-  
sue is primarily over the integra-  
tion of Negro skilled workers, and  
that CIO officials in this area must  
begin to show a stronger and firm-  
er determination to handle such  
situations on the basis of the prin-  
ciple before them lest the organiza-  
tion begin to fall in disrepute and  
be relegated to the same class as  
the AFL on the race question.

The Industrial Union of Mari-  
time and Shipbuilding Workers of  
America (CIO) is the bargaining  
agency at the Todd-Johnson yard.  
White workers are said to be de-  
manding that the company set a  
policy which would deny Negroes  
equitable opportunities as skilled  
workers. Heretofore, the company  
has not employed colored men in  
skilled capacities.

The white workers continue to  
stand pat despite an appeal from  
the navy that they return to work  
because the craft undergoing re-  
pairs at the dry docks are combat  
vessels and needed in the Pacific  
war zones.

Navy officials further disclosed  
that delay of the repair was forcing  
a delay in the conclusion of the  
war and would cost the lives of  
many American fighting men. Not-  
withstanding, the white workers  
who have been indoctrinated since  
infancy with a hate stronger for  
their colored fellow-Americans  
than possessed even for the Jap-  
anese, remain obdurate.

Company officials refused to  
comment upon the matter, explain-  
ing that the Negro skilled worker  
was employed in a routine manner  
after being certified to the job by  
the U. S. Employment Service.  
The Todd-Johnson officials said  
they felt duty bound to employ  
any man sent to the docks by the  
War Manpower commission.

The regional office of the Fair  
Employment Practices Committee  
is said to be standing firm for the  
right of Negroes to work in skilled



# Strikers Lay Racial Move to Murray Corp.

9-25-45  
By HARRY FAINARD

DETROIT, Sept. 24.—Strikers, the company is attempting to freeze picketing the Murray Corp. plant a building steward in each division on Clay and Russell Sts. charged and bargain with him alone. the company with attempting to 5. In order to settle the grievance drive a wedge between Negro and whites concerning seniority in the white workers, when two cars load-maintenance division, the union refused with nine Negroes tried to enter requested renegotiation of seniority the plant. in this division to bring it in line

Prince Clark, active Negro trade with the rest of the skilled division. union leader of Local 2, and chair-But the company again just says man of the Education Dept. told NO. 9-25-45 the Daily Worker, that there is no R. J. Thomas, president of the dissension whatever between the UAW-CIO, charged the company Negro and white unionists, that with "union-busting tactics."

"our common needs require common unity, and the same thing that benefits the white workers also benefits the white workers also benefits colored workers."

Both Negro and white union spokesmen testified to the fact that the Negroes who were brought in to break the picket line and divide the workers were non-union people and outsiders, and when they saw the solid line of the pickets they never returned.

## JOINT ACTION

Otto Statsman, captain of the Local 2 flying squadron, when told that a Daily Worker reporter was on the spot to investigate the union-busting attempt by the company, was eager to prove that Local 2 has no room for any division within the members' ranks.

"Out of 28 members in the squadron," said Statsman, "we have 10 Negro brothers, and they are all active, and we also have three veterans in it. If the company or anybody else thinks it can break our unity, it will be sorely disappointed," said Statsman.

Here are the reasons given for their strike action:

1. The company has been in a rampage, cutting wages without even negotiating with the union's bargaining committee.

2. The contract provides for union representation on all shifts but the company just ignores the contract.

3. To prevent any injustices toward the workers, the building stewards of all divisions must be supplied with seniority lists from the company, but the company just "doesn't give a damn about it," as one union spokesman put it.

4. Instead of recognizing the building stewards as the shop com-



# St. Louis Cab Strike Ends

ST. LOUIS—Deluxe taxicabs are rolling again here this week after being out on strike for 16 weeks.

The walkout ended officially Friday when Jesse L. Johnson, operator of the Deluxe company, signed an agreement with the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees Union, recognizing the union for the "purpose of sitting down and representing the union members involved" in order that a "mutually satisfactory signed agreement shall be consummated."

The agreement was signed before a group of leading citizens known as the Citizens Committee on the Deluxe Strike after three hours of negotiating at the Urban League. The agreement served only the purpose of putting the Deluxe cabs back on the street while the union bargains with the company on terms of a working contract.

## Citizens Take Part

Signing for the union was Harold J. Gibbons, CIO organizer. The Citizens committee, under Chairman E. Stovall, was a volunteer group.

Serving on that committee were Harold Ross, St. Louis director of the American Negro Music Festival; E. J. Bradley, vice president AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Howard B. Woods, St. Louis representative of the Chicago Defender; Theodore E. Brown, FEPC examiner; T. D. McNeal, director of the local March on Washington unit; Leyton Weston, chairman AFL Dining Car Employees union, local 354; and Rev. James A. Hall, pastor of the Kings Highway Baptist church.

Over forty men have been out on strike at the Deluxe company since April 1. The original group known as the Taxicab Drivers and Owners Union, staged a walkout following a dispute with the managers of both the Deluxe and Marcella cabs.

## FBI Holds Green

Richard Green, operator of the Marcella cabs, signed the agreement with the original union and the Marcella drivers returned to their cars, leaving the Deluxe drivers still on the picket lines.

Since that time Green has been arrested by FBI agents in Washington on charges of attempted bribery of government officials. Green is reported to have sent a \$500 check to an Office of Defense Transportation official in Dallas, Texas, and also to have given \$900 cash to an ODT official in Washington "in appreciation" of favorable action on his application to expand his business.

The Democratic National com-

mittee returned a recent \$100 contribution to Green who had made the donation after an official at the headquarters had arranged an appointment for Green for an interview with the ODT official.

## Freed on Bond

Green pleaded not guilty to the charges of bribery and was freed on \$1500 bond. He returned to St. Louis late last week after retaining James A. Cobb of Washington as counsel.

Meanwhile the new board of police commissioners are investigating charges of third degree methods used to "harrass" the strikers during the past 15 weeks, as made by Gibbons and his union.

Gibbons told the board at a meeting that the police misused their authority in making more than 300 arrests involving the 50 drivers who were on strike.

## Strikebreaker Testifies

Gibbons stated that many were held more than 20 hours without charges being brought against them. Gibbons also presented an affidavit of Paul Ervin Jefferson, 18, who stated that he had been hired as a strikebreaker, been beaten three times by police and forced to falsely identify two strikers as the men who took his taxicab and burned it.

Jefferson said he was struck with a rubber hose, kicked and beaten with fists during the 72 hours he was held in custody. Gibbons has also asked that Mayor Aloys P. Kaufmann investigate the entire Negro taxicab situation in St. Louis, declaring that it is "rotten to the core."

# White Strikers Spurn Boss' Anti-Negro Offer

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(ANP)—More than 200 white and Negro employees of the General Box Company here have maintained solid ranks during their eight-week pay strike in spite of rumors that company officials have offered to negotiate a separate CIO contract with white workers.

While the rumor is widely circulated among union circles here, no confirmation has been made that company officials have actual-

ly tried to settle the strike at the expense of Negro employees. The strike, which started about two months ago, is still in the process of settlement by local CIO leaders as well as by outside assistance.

William Hill, a representative of the American Council on Race Relations, has left his Chicago office to come here to sit in on the hearings. More than 60 per cent of the workers, who are seeking a 10-cent hourly increase, are Negroes.

# MO. STRIKERS REFUSE "WHITE ONLY" CONTRACT

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(ANP)—More than 200 employees of the General Box company are maintaining their eight-week pay strike in spite of rumors that officials have offered to negotiate a separate contract with white workers.



# Negro-White Unity on N. J. GM Line

By BILL MARDO

HARRISON, N. J., Nov. 25.—The United Auto Workers strike at General Motors has brought the first walkout in 55 years to GM's Hyatt Roller Bearing plant here. I asked William Caspar, president of UAW cents an hour and the top rate, 511 here, why the union's demand for tool makers, is \$1.55 an hour, for a 30 percent wage increase was The average is 84 cents an hour. a fighting issue to workers in a plant with that long a no-strike record.

"How can we get along on that?" Caspar asked in reply. He pointed to the high cost of living, the busted and removed price ceilings and the average takehome pay of \$32 and asked: 11-26-45

"How can e get along on that?"

## SOLID BEHIND STRIKE

Approximately 2,500 workers, all there were in the plant as of the strike call, agree with Caspar that it can't be done. They're solid for the strike and over 200 are turning out for picket duty every two hours.

Of the strikers, 300 are Negroes and 600 are women. Young women are particularly active on the picket line. Lively, alert and full of fight, they've been employed on assembly lines, inspection and like jobs.

Caspar said relations with management have been tough in weeks just before the strike. Provocation was extreme. Management refuses to settle grievances and it was hard to get the 2,500 to remain on the job till the strike call was issued, Caspar said. 11-26-45

Among special grievances here are a 7-day shift, which means week-end work and somehow dodges paying overtime for it; an incentive system that operates to workers' disadvantage; and a merit spread system that plays to favoritism and is subject to management's whim.

Among the strikers are many old-timers, some with as much as 25 years' service. They're known in the community and so is the union, which has a good record for support of local constructive projects, especially the Red Cross, the National War Fund and other war activities.

You can get an idea of how matters stand from the way gifts pour in for the union's soup kitchen. A tavern provides coffee. A restaurant sent turkey to the pickets. A bakery provides bread, rolls and desserts. A box luncheon company sends hundreds of sandwiches. And so it goes. 11-26-45

The minimum wage here is .74



# Ships' Bells Toll the Zero Hour as Seamen Pour Out for One-Day Strike

*Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.*

By JOHN MELDON

12-4-45

Offshore tolling of ships' bells marked the hour of 8 o'clock yesterday morning. A few moments later thousands of seamen, radio operators, engineers and members of black gangs walked off the pier heads—on a 24-hour strike against the delay in bringing our GIs home.

One of the first to walk off the dock at Pier 59 of the United States Lines at 11th Ave. and 18th St. was Marshall Gernott, Able-bodied seaman from the SS Treton. A wiry man, wearing a knitted stocking cap, Gernott stopped to talk to us for a few minutes before reporting to the National Maritime Union headquarters a few blocks away.

"There's 37 men on that ship," he said, pointing a thumb over his shoulder. "They'll be out any second. We came off solid."

As he was talking, the crew streamed out of the pier doors—white and Negro, deck and engine room workers, radio men and a few uniformed officers. They headed for the union hall. Cops stood nearby, eyeing the striking protesters but saying nothing. We stopped a heavy-set Negro in uniform. He gave his name as Eric King, chief steward of the Treton.

"Sure we're sore," he said in answer to a question. "Our ship is handling commercial cargo while those boys break their hearts trying to get home to their families."

As we talked, union cars drove by. One stopped and unloaded an armful of picket signs. Strikers took them and began to parade before Pier 59. 12-4-45

The signs read: "Ships Here. GI's There. No Fair. Bring Our Boys Home by Xmas!" and "They Won the War. They Got the Points. Now Bring Them Home."

Chief Steward King said: "There are ships in this port right now loaded with bananas. Others with coconuts. Down the river a way there's another just loaded with Christmas trees bound for Havana! Is there any reason we're sore? And brother, the GI's are just as mad as we are."

We stopped to talk to Frank Krajacich, another Able Bodied seaman who had just walked off the SS American Farmer and was



Chief Steward Eric King of the S.S. Treton and Able Bodied Seaman Severno Correa of the S.S. American Farmer tell the Daily Worker reporter why they staged the dramatic ship tie-up on the North River waterfront early yesterday morning. They were among the first off ship.

—Daily Worker photo

patrolling the waterfront at the moment for the NMU.

"If the GI's overseas could see this," Frank remarked, "they would cheer." 12-4-45

Seaman Severno Correa picketing nearby caught Frank's remark. "Amen, brother!" he said.



45j-1945

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

P M

Circ. D. 137,100 - S. 136,912

JUL 16 1945

New York

Meanwhile, the publishers who have been circulating their papers through sales at their own offices, either to individuals or in large lots to dealers and hawkers, declared they would find "other means" to restore normal distribution if the men did not return.

What these "other means" were was not disclosed, but there was an unconfirmed report that the

mand for a 3 per cent contribution to a sick and disability fund is such an issue.

If this demand was submitted to an arbitrator, and he decided it was just, then the contract with the publishers would go to WLB as a

"Will the publishers arbitrate or not?"

This telegram also drew the Mayor's attention to the State law which says that no newspaper employee under the age of 16 "may appear on the street without a street badge."

It said that scores of children of all ages were selling papers on the street without being in pos-

though we have no grievance with the union, if the newspapers with which we have contracts call for trucks we must supply them, even though we would not like it."

However, James Candle, traffic manager for the company, said that with automobile parts hard to obtain and trucks difficult to maintain, the company would like to see its trucks remain in garages until the strike is over.

Candle said the company was not obligated to put drivers on the trucks, "but if the publishers

# Newspaper Strikers Again Vote to Stay Out

Union to Grant  
\$15 a Week to Needy  
Members in Walkout

The strike of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union against the New York Publishers Assn. and 14 metropolitan dailies continued into its 16th day today after the membership of the union voted for the second time in a week not to return to work, despite the publishers' threat of dismissal.

As a result of yesterday's vote, the publishers were expected to attempt to resume deliveries tonight or tomorrow, with trucks which have been tied up since the strike started.

The union meeting, held yesterday in Webster Hall, 119 E. 11th St., voted to sustain the union officials who already had requested that an arbitrator be named from the State Mediation Board or any State labor authority with power to settle the dispute.

The union also voted to grant \$15 a week strike benefits to striking members and to assess non-striking members—those working for newspapers not involved in the strike—20 per cent of their pay to form a strike fund. It was emphasized at the meeting that strikers would not make withdrawals from the fund unless they found it absolutely necessary.

## La Guardia Speaks

The meeting took place a few hours after Mayor La Guardia in his regular Sunday broadcast over Station WNYC urged the men to return, saying:

"You know, you have lost the last two or three innings and you can't go back and play them over again."

The Mayor urged the men to return today, attempt direct negotiation or ask the WLB for arbitration.

"There is a great deal of talk about face-saving," La Guardia said. "As I see it, you first must save your jobs if you are going to save face."

*Daily News* had ordered a large number of signs printed reading: "This truck is being driven by a discharged war veteran."

## Recruiting

The *News* also was reported to have called in its out-of-town roadmen to man its trucks if necessary, and to be housing them in a midtown hotel. Other sources said that the newspapers were recruiting strikebreakers from the East Side and waterfront areas.

The Publishers Assn., which represents 11 of the 14 newspapers affected, declared last night that "newspapers will be delivered," and Edwin S. Friendly of the *Sun*, representing the publishers, said in a radio address that any man who resumed work "can be absolutely sure that it (the Association) will make no agreements with any union which will jeopardize his job because of his return to work."

It was also reported that one newspaper had planned to move newspapers by truck from its plant to railroad stations Friday night, but that it desisted after the other publishers objected on the ground that it might turn public opinion against them.

On its part, the union, through its president, Joseph Simons, announced it had received numerous messages of support from CIO and AFL unions.

Spokesmen for the union reiterated their offer to place all issues in the dispute in the hands of an impartial arbitrator for final decision. The employers insist that the WLB (War Labor Board) should make the decision on all issues, not an arbitrator.

WLB policy is to grant certain "fringe" benefits—sick leave and the like—only if employers and workers have reached agreement on them through collective bargaining or arbitration. In every case in which fringe benefits have been sought by a union but denied by the employer, the WLB has refused to grant them.

It is the so-called "fringe" benefits which are the principal demands of the deliverymen; the de-



It happened on 42d St. late last night. An unidentified man got into an argument with pickets and tried to crash the line. Policemen are shown removing him.

voluntary agreement. In such a case its established policy would be to approve the contract. If the contract goes to the Board as a "dispute" case, WLB could not approve the "fringe" benefits without reversing its previous policy.

The New York Guild newspaper already had called upon members of the Publishers Assn. to arbitrate with the strikers. In a statement issued Friday the Guild announced it had called a special meeting of its executive committee for tonight and an emergency general membership meeting for Friday night at Town Hall. The New York Guild also wired the publishers, asking for a meeting this afternoon, and wired the other newspaper unions, requesting a joint meeting with the and the Bronx will be considered at a meeting to be held at 8:30 tonight at the U. S. Food Market, Broadway and 117th St., by the Allboro Retail Fruit and Vegetable Merchants, Inc., representing inde-

session of such badges.

## Other Walkouts?

It was pointed out that of the 3500 members of the union only about half are on strike. The remainder work for 11 other publications, including PM, which are not struck, and for news agencies.

Should the struck papers resume deliveries to the agencies for out-of-town distribution, it was reported, the agencies' drivers would also walk out—to remain would make them strike breakers.

Metropolitan newspapers, with the exception of the *Daily News*, Mail Deliverers Union does not admit their delivery trucks on year-to-year contracts.

The Metropolitan Distributors, largest company hiring out trucks, supplies the *Times*, *Journal-American*, *Mirror*, *Brooklyn Eagle*, *Morning Telegraph*, *Racing Form* and *Women's Wear Daily*.

One spokesman for this company, which has 428 trucks said that "al-

decide to call our trucks, we can't refuse. At least that is the policy of the company as I see it at this

moment. We don't like to see them about half are on strike. The re-

A spokesman for the Excelsior Garage, which supplies trucks to the *World-Telegram*, expressed similar views regarding that company.

An assertion by George E. De Mar, industrial relations director of the Urban League of New York, reported Saturday by the *Daily Worker*, that the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union does not admit Negroes; was denied last night by Peter J. Rauchut, chairman of the *Daily News* unit of the union.

Rauchut said that union had opened its records to the Urban League and established to the League's satisfaction that there are about 15 Negro members and that Negroes are not barred.

Photo by Arthur Leipzig, PM



As a result, he said, the Urban League had undertaken to have a quantity of pamphlets printed, giving the strikers' side of the case and bringing out that the union does not discriminate against Negroes, and to circulate them throughout Harlem. It also had agreed, Rauhut said, to send a sound truck around Harlem, urging its citizens to refrain from scabbing. The union and the Urban League will split the cost of these enterprises, he said. The *News*, it was learned, got rid of approximately 1,300,000 copies of its Sunday paper by 7 a.m. yesterday.

Pickets, patrolling both entrances to the building, kept up a running fire of talk designed to discourage buyers. Forbidden by police to address any individual directly, pickets called out at random such remarks as "When the unions go, you'll be selling apples," and "I'm proud to be on my line—how do you feel about yours?"

Two soldiers in full uniform bought papers, but two Army officers escorted them back into the building and forced them to get refunds. It was explained that the men had intended to sell the papers, and that the Army doesn't let its soldiers work as newsboys.

One cautious customer marched along to buy his *News* with a German helmet—much too small for him—on his head.

## Negro Group Hits Daily News on Strike

The Negro Labor Victory Committee, which played a big role in bringing the issues of the strike to the Negro population of New York, yesterday expressed satisfaction in the strike's end, and the setting up of machinery to settle the just and modest demands of the union.

"We recognized that the *Daily News* and other members of the Publishers Association hoped to create additional race tension and animosity in this strike situation," a statement issued by Ferdinand Smith, chairman, and Charles A. Collins, secretary, declared. "We appealed to the Negro people not to be tricked into serving as strikebreakers by selling or buying the *Daily News*. In our conferences with the officials of the union we made it clear that we expect the union to support the efforts of the Negro people to obtain employment in the newspaper industry, and that the union itself should try to find ways and means of increasing its Negro membership."

## Negro 'Scabs' In N. Y. News Strike Assailed

NEW YORK.—The use of Negro boys as scabs to break the New York newspaper strike was denounced here this week by the Negro Labor Victory Committee.

Bitter racial conflict was threatened when a Negro city policeman out of uniform was caught loading two thousand copies of the Sunday *News* into a laundry truck outside the strike-bound *News* Building. His shield number, revealed when he was surrounded by pickets, was 9829.

As the strike of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union against the New York Publishers' Association went into its third week, more than 100 news deliverers voted to continue the strike.

"We are not going to be provoked into hating the Negro people for this because we know this is just a trick of the bosses to split us," one striker said. Investigation of the employment of the police are being conducted by the union.

Charles Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee conferred with Joseph Simons, president of the Independent Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union. Simons told Collins that reports that the Union was Jim Crow were false. He declared that the Negro drivers had the same rights as the union's other members.

Reports that Negro newsboys were used extensively to sell the 14 metropolitan dailies now tied up in the strike were hit by the strikers.

"They have been trying to create race riots for two weeks now by paying Negro kids to sell scab papers," one striker said. "Where are they getting these Negro kids and how much are they paying them? Why was this scab cop a Negro? Was he forced to try scabbing? That's what we want to know."

The Negro Labor Victory Committee which consists of one hundred CIO and A.F. of L. affiliates has assured the union that they will do all they can to find the answers to these questions and aid the strikers in every way.

## 'I WAS IN FRANK'S CAFE NO LONGER THAN 15 MINUTES,' SAYS FRAZIER

Howard Professor Declares He Did Not Eat And Pay For Meal 10-20-45  
SAYS DAN BURLEY IS LIAR

Branding Dan Burley, editor of the *Amsterdam-Star News*, as "a deliberate liar," and answering all of the three questions asked by the *Black Dispatch* last week, Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, Howard university professor, charged by New Yorkers as having broken a union picket line established in front of Frank's cafe August 18 of this year, pointed an accusing finger at his critics this week.

Pictures Tell Story ing Frank's that a labor disturbance was in progress, so that if showing Dr. Frazier and his wife you ordered food, ate it and paid seated in the cafe and news stories your bill, you are then guilty as which alleged the Howard profes-

sor had ignored union officials and had entered and eaten a meal in the cafe, the *Black Dispatch* ran an editorial entitled "He was Very Hungry" in its issue of September 1st., to which Dr. Frazier, took violent exception, and in a letter written to Editor Dunjee under date of September 13th charged the *Black Dispatch* with dealing in a type of "irresponsible journalism."

Don't See Pickets Dr. Frazier, in his letter to the *Black Dispatch*, said reporters for the *Amsterdam Star News* and the *New Jersey Herald News* had not been fair, in that when he entered the cafe without knowing it was picketed, he left, the Howard Professor said, immediately upon observing that a brick had been thrown through the window and a howling mob was yelling at him and calling names.

Did You Eat? In answer to this communication Frazier under date of October 6th Editor Dunjee wrote Dr. Frazier answered the three questions asked a lengthy letter in which Dunjee above. Dr. Frazier's letter follows:

It appears to me that before I of October 2, 1945. First, I wish can have clarity of vision it would to express my appreciation of your be well for you to answer the following questions:

1. How long did you remain in the editorial with reference to me. Frank's cafe?

1. Did you order food and pay to me, Dr. Frazier, that your principal difficulty rests in positive, cafe? unequivocal statement made by a

3. How far is it from the subway to Frank's cafe? were present at the time this unfortunate incident happened," only

Question number 2 is perhaps the most important question to be answered, for you admit you dis- namely: that men who should be covered immediately upon entering responsible. I shall prove this by giving replies to the three ques-

tions posed in your letter

1. How long did you remain in Frank's Cafe? I remained in Frank's Cafe no longer than 15 minutes. I can produce as witness, Dr. and Mrs. Clayton A. Robinsons, of Hopewell, Virginia, who were with me. I am also certain that the manager and a waiter in Frank's Cafe would substantiate the statement.

2. Did you order food and pay for entertainment while in Frank's Cafe? 10-20-45

I did not order or pay for entertainment while in Frank's Cafe. I can produce the above witnesses to substantiate my statement here.

3. How far is it from the subway to Frank's Cafe?

I would estimate the distance to be between 30 and 40 yards, including the distance in turning the corner.

Might Sue Paper

In view of the factual replies to the above three questions, you must agree with me that Dan Burley makes irresponsible statements, or is a deliberate liar. If I had the time to give to matters of this type, I would sue him and The *Amsterdam News* for writing you a lie like that

With reference to Dick Edward's letter, I might simply point out that it would be impossible for anyone to see a picket sign from the subway, since the subway exit is around the corner.

I trust these statements will provide you with the clarity of vision which you seek."



45j-1945

South Carolina

~~Norfolk, Va. Journal Guide~~  
There are nearly 900 Negro workers among the 1,200 strikers at the American Tobacco plant in Charleston and they are receiving a sustained moral and financial support from many citizens, particularly from the Negro churches. The union, Local 15, FTA-CIO is striking for union recognition, a 25 cents raise for everyone and a 65 cents minimum wage.

The white and Negro union members of both sexes meet without segregation and usually hold their public meetings in Negro churches. The FTA-CIO is also making successful efforts to organize the workers in the cotton seed oil plants in Columbia and Sumter. Reuel Stanfield is president. 12-29-45



45j-1945

# WAITERS STAGE PROTEST STRIKE

*Savannah, Ga.*  
*Savannah Tribune*  
*2-28-45*  
ATLANTA, (ANP) Charging that the manager, Johnny Choates, openly expressed racial prejudice, 11 waiters of the downtown Casa Blanca night club Friday walked out leaving only the kitchen staff and two waiters, older men, on duty.

The feeling was brought to a climax when Manager Choates called police to two waiters who had quit and returned to get their weekly pay. No one was arrested and no disturbance created, it was reported.

## PORT ARTHUR, TEX. NEWS

Cir. D. 16,233—S. 16,298

JUN 29 1945

## Negro Workers at Texaco on Strike

Despite a War Labor board order that the "status quo" be maintained at the Texas Company's refinery here, an estimated 250 Negro workers are out on strike here today, union leaders said. The Negroes are members of the Local 254, Oil Workers' International union, CIO.

The strike came as the result of suspension Wednesday morning of 22 workers employed as bubble power cleaners by the company after an argument over mechanical installation work on towers and elsewhere.

### Discrimination Claimed

The Negroes said they were being used in jobs involving pipefitting and boiler-making while being paid only as laborers, according to Ray Andrus, chairman of the workmen's committee of the Texas Company group, Local 23.

Pointing out that he was acting merely as a "go-between," Andrus said that the Negro local was not recognized as an accredited bargaining agency by the company, but that he had no jurisdiction over their union and could not regulate union action by disciplinary measures.

F. L. Wallace, works manager of the Texas Company, said that 148 Negroes had failed to show up so far out of the 400 or more employed. The third shift had not yet come on, he said, and the company has no way of knowing how many of that group will fail to appear.

No picket lines had been estab-

lished at the plant today, Andrus said.

### Whites Paid More

"White workers are paid \$1.33 per hour for some of the same work for which the Negroes have been getting 72 1-2 cents to 87 1-2 cents per hour," Andrus said. "Most of the Negroes were being paid at the low rate because the higher rate depends on the length of service."

In a telephone conversation this morning, Clifford Potter, vice chairman of the Eighth Regional War Labor board in Dallas, told Andrus that he would send to Alex Joseph, president of Local 254, a similar telegram to the one sent Thursday to Local 23 and company officials.

Andrus asked that the board reiterate in the telegram the board's policy of equal pay for equal work.

"I am quite sure that white workers will use their best efforts to see that the colored workers get an equitable, amiable, and justifiable settlement and that the union policy of equal pay for similar or equal work will be observed and maintained by the company," Andrus said.

### No Meetings Set

No meetings of the union had been scheduled so far as he knew, Andrus said.

Wallace said that since the men had not complied with the WLB order to return to work, there was nothing further the company could do. Bargaining will resume after the men return to their jobs, he said.

At Dallas, Potter said he had talked by telephone with Petroleum Administration for War officials in Washington, and that they had expressed "grave concern" over the situation.

He said the PAW officials had urged the regional board do all it could to get the workmen back on the job.

Potter said A. R. Kirstley, vice president of the Oil Workers International union (CIO), of Fort Worth, who now was in Corpus Christi, was leaving immediately for Port Arthur.

Andrus said he understood the PAW was contemplating sending a conciliator here to attempt a settlement of a long series of disputes.

### Other Disputes

The Dallas WLB is understood to be handling a long-pending dispute between the Texas Company and OWIU involving 87 distinct and separate complaints. The regional board said it was incorporating the present issue in the original case.

## Labor - Strikes

# Negroes Condemn Publishers' Tactics In Trying to Break News Strike

The Negro Labor Victory Committee was scheduled last night to meet leaders of the independent Mail Deliverers Union to discuss ways and means of exposing the strike-breaking methods of the employers.

Charles Collins, executive secretary of the committee, declined to speculate on the possible outcome of the conference, but said that the union's "failure to intergrade Negroes on the basis of equality" undoubtedly had something to do with the apparent indifference toward the strikers' problems by the Negro community.

George E. DeMar, industrial relations secretary, Urban League of New York, told the Daily Worker that he had definite feelings about the use of strikebreakers by the publishers. He said:

"I know that the union now on strike does not include Negroes in its membership and that the union membership books are permanently closed to Negroes. 'It is unbelievable that the publishers should resort to the use of minority groups to break the strike, inasmuch as they know full well that the Wagner Labor Relations Act has been the means of bringing to America a measure of industrial peace. I don't think it right that the strike be ended or even tampered with by the use of Negro strikebreakers.'

The Negro has too much to lose, DeMar added, by acting as a strike-breaker.

Mrs. Marvel Cooke, assistant managing editor of the Peoples Voice, referred to the Daily News as "that mouthpiece of reaction" which "loses no chance to slander the people of Harlem with fantastic tales of 'crime waves'." It was typical of the Daily News, she declared, to use these same people "to do its dirty work."

Mrs. Cooke said that boys who wished to earn money selling papers might apply to the Peoples Voice for such work, that paper having "at least an understanding of the people's problems and being in sympathy with their interests and needs."

Lyndon Henry, business agent, Fancy Fur Dyers Union, said the Daily News' employing Negro boys to sell its papers was not that it

wished to give Negroes employment "as witness the fact that there is not one Negro on its editorial staff," but that it wished, by using the Negro as strike-breaker, further to injure organized labor.

## The Righteous Publishers

EVERY union-busting employer always professes the highest ethical motives and the purest concern for the public good. But for sheer righteousness the New York publishers take something of a prize. They would have us believe that unselfish devotion to millions of newspaper readers has guided their course.

So it would be interesting to know what justification the publishers can give for their use of young boys from the sidewalks to break the strike and peddle their papers?

Would these guardians of the youth, these paragons of civic virtue maintain that it is useful vocational training to teach young kids the gentle art of scabbing and the ways of consorting with the gangster and criminal elements who are traditionally used as strikebreakers?

Or what excuse have the publishers got for the vicious attempt to use Negro youths to break the strike, for the deliberate attempt to stir up racial feeling?

On what high moral plane would the publishers explain the efforts of the New York Daily News, the spearhead of their union-busting drive, to create friction between veterans and workers?

Or what possible reason can they give for not submitting the whole dispute to arbitration as the union has repeatedly demanded?

This is the crux of the problem. For reasons best known to itself, the War Labor Board refuses to handle disputes on such issues as the 3 percent welfare fund contribution which the union asks from the publishers.

If the publishers want to indulge in strikebreaking pure and simple, that is one thing, and the public should know it. But if they want to work out this situation, the only possible way is by arbitration. This is what the workers and the progressives of New York must demand with increasing clamor.



# White Union Men Refuse To Replace Colored Men During Work Stoppage

*The Informer*  
PORT ARTHUR — When members of Local 254, Oil Workers Union, CIO, staged a work stoppage at the Texas company refinery last week they were assured by officials of the white local that no white workers would fill their jobs.

A reporter who came here to investigate the stoppage when the Government seized the plant upon a directive issued by President Truman, was told that the white workers urged the colored employees to walk out.

Ray Andrew, negotiator for both the white and colored locals, expressed hope that the Texas company would not embarrass itself by asking white union men to replace Negro union men.

To support their contention that the walkout was the result of discrimination in pay, the colored workers charged that they were paid 84 cents per hour for work for which workers previously received \$1.35 per hour.

More than one hundred colored workers returned to their jobs after the Government seized the plant and it was expected all would be back on duty by mid-week.

Alex Joseph, president of the colored local, said the pay discrimination had been under discussion for sometime. He added that with assurance from the union's international headquarters that a negotiator was being rushed to represent them, the colored employees were anxious to return to work and get the question of pay settled.

Twenty-two workers, allegedly suspended as a disciplinary measure when they refused to do assigned work, were eligible for return under directive of Eighth Regional War Labor Board.

According to Joseph, the men were suspended and given only 30 minutes to get out of the plant. This, he said, provoked the walkout. He emphasized that the stoppage was not a formal strike, but protest.

## Hunger Strike in Prison Against J.C. — *The American* *Baltimore, Maryland 9-29-48*

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Tucson Federal Prison camp has been hit by a one-man hunger strike against the institution's jim-crow policies, particularly the segregation of colored and white prisoners in the dining room.

Manuel Talley, a conscientious objector, is reported to have begun his hunger strike August 31. According to information from the prison, he declared he will touch no food until the jim-crow dining room policy is abolished.

The Army, the Negro, and Strikers

*New Republic*  
SIR: The army openly invited a race riot in New York City on October 10 and 11, when it ordered Negro troops to load the big British liner *Queen Elizabeth*, on which rank-and-file strikers of the International Longshoremen's Association had refused to work. Employment of the troops was an attempt at strikebreaking by the army, with colored soldiers forced to assume the role of scabs.

Violent race conflicts have often originated in the replacement of white strikers by Negro workers. The worst outbreaks of this kind in the country's history were the draft riots in New York City from July 13 to 18, 1863, during which 450 persons were killed and more than \$2 million worth of property destroyed. They resulted from the use of Negroes to replace striking white longshoremen.

*New York, N.Y.*  
During the spring and early summer of 1863, New York longshoremen, many of them unionized in the Longshoremen's Protective and Benevolent Association, struck for a pay raise from \$1 to \$1.50 a day, their wages having remained stationary since the beginning of the Civil War in the face of soaring prices. The shipping companies and railroads countered, however, by bringing in Negro laborers from the outside. This gave rise to outbreaks of interracial violence along the city's waterfront which culminated in the bloody draft riot of July, 1863, when scores of Negroes were beaten and burned to death and whole colored neighborhoods wiped out. And in the van of the lynch mobs marched the white longshoremen of New York.

The army, which has fostered racial antagonism within its own ranks by Jimcrow policies, did a foolish thing in a highly explosive labor situation.

Hollis, N. Y.

ALBON P. MAN JR.

## Editorial Places Blame Of Transit Co. Strike On Company And Employees

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) — Commenting on the strike of Capital Transit Company employees, which tied up transportation from midnight, November 5, until shortly after 1 p. m., November 7, the Washington Post said editorially:

"We recall with interest the piety of the Capital Transit Co., a year ago when the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee requested it to employ some Negroes as platform operators. The company could not accede to this request, it asserted in highly moral tones, because to do so might precipitate a strike by white employees afflicted with race prejudice. And any interruption of public transportation in the Nation's Capital would be unthinkable."

"In the face of a wage demand, however, the Capital Transit Co.

has shown no hesitation about challenging the intransigency of its employees. The unthinkable interruption of public transportation is now in progress." The editorial went on to accuse both the company and its employees of irresponsibility.



45j-1945

# WAR PLANT IS CLOSED AS NEGROES WALKOUT

Commercial Appeal  
Memphis, Tenn.  
Makers Of Much-Needed Cans  
Forced To Shut Down As  
Workers Leave Jobs

The Sefton Fibre Can Co., 208 West Georgia, engaged in the production of highly critical war materials, shut down yesterday afternoon when from 350 to 375 negro employees, mostly laborers and machine operators, walked out. The action was not authorized by their union.

The company manufactures containers for artillery shells, without which they cannot be shipped overseas, and has greatly increased its production as a result of the War Department's recent expansion program. The containers bear the highest of priorities.

## Followed Directive

William Haughey, plant manager, said last night efforts would be made to reopen the plant when the day shift is scheduled to begin work at 7:45 o'clock this morning.

The action of the negroes, Mr. Haughey said, followed receipt of a directive by the War Labor Board granting a wage increase of 2½ cents an hour to two of the plant's 30 classifications and refusing an increase for all the other classifications. Awarded the increases were assembly girls and press operators.

A number of the negroes failed to go to work yesterday morning, but a few trickled back to their jobs during the forenoon. At 3:45 p.m., when the afternoon shift was scheduled to begin, there were not enough negro laborers and machine operators to operate the plant and it was shut down.

## Action Is Deplored

About one-third of the plant's employees are white men, a third are white women and the remaining third are negroes. No white men or women struck. Mr. Haughey said the negro employees evidently felt they were being discriminated against because of their race.

The walkout, Mr. Haughey said, was not authorized by Local 239, United Rubber Workers of America (C. I. O.), a statement which was borne out by W. A. Copeland, C. I. O. co-ordinator here.

Mr. Copeland said he "regretted" the unauthorized walkout of the negro employees and called upon them to return to work on their regular shifts today. He declared there could be no negotiations or possible settlement until the workers returned to their jobs and warned that failure to return on their regular shifts would probably result in disciplinary action. The Sefton plant was closed

## Strikes

briefly by labor trouble some months ago, but workers returned to their jobs when called upon to do so jointly by the company and the union.

# Tex. Whites Break Union Picket Line

PORT ARTHUR, Tex.—(ANP)—For the second time this year white CIO oil workers ignored the picket lines of colored oil workers striking against wage and racial discrimination.

The strike of some 450 men resulted in President Truman's issuing an order seizing the Texas Oil Refinery here. The seizure followed the men's refusal to obey the Regional War Labor Board's back to work order.

## Men Suspended

The trouble started when 22 "bubbles" powder cleaners, were suspended three days because they refused to obey orders after striking against pay inequalities.

The colored workers were astounded to see their fellow white union members ignore their picket lines and continue working. The picket line was conducted peacefully.

## Whites Opposed FEPC Order

Recently, the white members of the United Oil Workers' International, CIO, at the Shell refinery near Houston voted 8 to 2 to strike if the FEPC forced its order upgrading colored workers as truck drivers and helpers.

Company officials said they had followed the terms of the contract on work and wages signed by the union. The discriminatory clauses on wages was written by the union, officials declare.

# Toward Freedom

ORGANIZED labor and the Negro people

had better think deeply about the wide use which New York newspapers were able to make of Negro salesmen in their efforts to break the recent strike of the newspaper and Mail Deliverers' Union. Herein lie lessons of vital importance to labor, the Negro and to the nation as a whole.

New Yorkers must have been impressed by the large number of Negro men, women and children selling copies of strike-bound papers. There were hundreds of them—in downtown Manhattan, Harlem, Brooklyn and Bronx. Most frequently they were selling that anti-labor, anti-Negro, anti-everything-else-decent sheet the Daily News. These salesmen were playing the role of strike-breakers, helping the bosses in their

efforts to defeat the Negro's staunch ally, organized labor. Their sole motivation in most cases was simply to make some easy money quick, but the fact remains that they were serving as scab.

The predominance of Negroes among strike-breaking newspaper salesmen was no accident. They were solicited through radio appeals (especially over the 'News' KNEW, whose swingband programs are very popular in Harlem), letters to Harlem ministers and other means. And the purpose was not merely to get additional salesmen—it was Negro salesmen that were wanted.

Here evident was the age-old tactic of employers to play upon the latent prejudices of white workers, to provoke sharp race conflict leading to violence, and then to use the resulting disturbance as a basis for demanding that the police be used for the forceful suppression of the strikers.

There was social dynamite in the publishers' widespread use of Negro strike-breaking salesmen. But for the discipline of the union it could very easily have exploded into a bloody race riot. Both the Negro and the union would have been heavy losers.

It is important to understand that at least some of the publishers counted on and sought to provoke such racial conflict as a strike-breaking tactic. Recall, for example, the Daily News front-page picture of a wounded white striker with blood streaming from his side, and the accompanying story alleging that he was stabbed on the picket-line by "unidentified" Negro salesmen. This was a downright lie. The striker's assailant was identified as Leonard Crassi, a white resident of the Bronx, who was later charged with felonious assault and held without bail. It appears that the News was deliberately trying to stir up racial conflict.

by Doxey A. Wilkerson



THIS tactic of stirring up Negro-white conflicts as a means of breaking unions is not new in American industry. It was widely used right after World War I, with enormous setbacks for the Negro and for organized labor. Henry Ford used it in trying to keep UAW from organizing his plant in Detroit. The Philadelphia Transit Co. tried it (with near disastrous consequences) in last summer's fight against TWU. It will be tried many times again during the period of social strains which mass reconversion lay-offs are already beginning to develop.

This is why both organized labor and the Negro people must learn and profit by the lessons of the recent newspaper delivery-men's strike.

FIRST, our unions must quickly step-up their programs for the education of white

workers on the Negro question. More than this, they must act vigorously to uproot whatever discrimination there is within the unions themselves. Especially must they launch intensive struggles to destroy every vestige of Jimcrowism in their plants, to force the upgrading of Negro workers, and to negotiate employer-union programs to prevent lay-offs from eliminating Negro workers entirely, thus wiping out the Negro's hard-won wartime right to work.

It is not to help the Negro that these things must be done; it is to protect the unions against employer tactics of using racial prejudices and discrimination for union-busting ends.

THERE is only one effective defense against this foul race-baiting tactic: Strengthen the unity of white and Negro workers within the union, and draw closer the bonds which now link the Negro people and the labor movement together as close allies.

SECOND, Negro leaders—ministers, trade unionists, journalists, civic leaders and all others—must act quickly, while the newspaper strike is still fresh in mind, to drive home this basic lesson to the masses of Negro people: The proper and necessary role of Negro workers is and must always be that of an ally of organized labor, fighting alongside the unions, in the shops and in the political arena, for the security of all workers. Never must Negroes allow themselves to be used by the bosses as strike-breakers against their fellow-workers.

Our experiences during this people's war have brought a new unity and collaboration between the trade union movement and the Negro people. It must not be disrupted during this period of resurgent reaction. Indeed, it must be strengthened. Along this road alone lies triumph for the democratic forces of America.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.  
NEWS

Circ. D. 51,903

## People's Platform

# Is The Negro To Blame?

By B. F. WYANT JR.

Charlotte

I am replying to Mr. Julian Barber's letter in the People's Platform. I agree with him in only one thing—that the laundry strike is very unfortunate. I may be called some unpleasant things for what I am going to say, but I'll say them anyway.

Mr. Barber seems to be taking this strike and trying to do what some of our Congressmen are trying to do with the Russians—scare people out of their wits and start a movement against anything

that he personally dislikes. I wouldn't go so far as to say these Negroes on strike are un-American because they want to help themselves.

They are a minority asking only for an increase in wages, better working conditions and better hours, so that they in turn might raise their standard of living a little. My work takes me into their homes as it does to all the homes of Charlotte, and I know that many do not live, but only exist. We call this the land of opportunity, yet we have here a man who would take this privilege away from "a group of ignorant strikers who don't know there is a war going on."

I'm sure many of them have sons in the service, so I'll just pass that. As for their ignorance, let's see if we can find someone on whom to place the blame for this. We can't blame the Negro entirely. Very little is allotted for their schools . . . very few have the money to give their children the education that is a matter of course with white families. Their average wage isn't much over \$14 a week, yet they must pay the same price for products that you and I pay . . .

The union stands on one basic principle: an honest day's work for an honest wage. And ten hours a day in a laundry is work. I know. I worked in one. There is a group made up of us, the people of Charlotte. Have we done very much to help the Negro? No! We have not.

We have pushed them on to the creek banks of this town where there is only filth and corruption. We don't want them in white sections, and I'm sure the Negroes will tell you they don't want that either. They want a section of their own where they can have decent homes and some recreation other than roaming the streets. As for jobs we don't (and they don't) know what they can do because they have had no chance to

prove themselves. I am unable to decide just which Mr. Barber is trying to attack, the Negro or labor unions, but this much I do know: They are both as American as our flag, and like the flag they are here to stay—which is as it should be.

It has been shown that of all working classes those in unions produce the best, quickest and most and have higher living standards. Experience has shown that where both parties (employers and union men) sit down and discuss their problems with an open mind, there is little or no trouble.

Our newspapers have printed the fact that the laundry operators,



with one exception, have absolutely refused to even discuss the matter with union representatives.

I think that if we will examine the facts carefully and honestly we will find that the blame for the Negro's condition rests on us as well as on him.

It may also interest some to know that I am a Southerner.

## **Bermudian Public Opinion Airporters Kingston, Jamaica Strike**

10-19-45

BERMUDA, Thursday.

Fifty Bermudian porters at Bermuda's maritime airport went on strike this morning when two PAA's clippers landed at about 6.15 a.m. EST. The porters are employed by British Overseas Airways Corp. who are managers for the local government of the airport. The porters are seeking higher wages and discussion will be underway presently between BOAC officials and the Bermuda Labour Board. 10-19-45



# AFL Picks Negro for Delegation to Britain

P.M. N.Y.



Maida Stewart Springer, dressmaker and member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, at a luncheon which marked Mrs. Springer's selection as an AFL representative in a delegation of American women workers leaving soon for Great Britain.

## Dressmaker Among

## Four Women Workers Chosen

By ERWIN VAN SWOL

Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer, 34, of 730-A Macon St., Brooklyn, has been selected as one of two AFL representatives who will be sent to England to interpret American working women for British women war workers. She is the first Negro to be singled out for such a mission.

The tour, an exchange arranged by the Office of War Information, also will be made by two CIO women, Mrs. Grace Wood Blackett, United Auto Workers Detroit, and Mrs. Anne Murkovich of Reading, Pa., American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

At a farewell luncheon yesterday in the Park Central Hotel, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL, said that the purpose of the trip is "to encourage British workers in war industries; to tell them what we are doing, what we plan to do, and what our problems are."

## In Tune With Times

Roy Wilkins, acting secretary of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, said:

"The ILGWU, by this choice of Mrs. Springer, has shown that it is in tune with the times and the kind of thinking we are striving for. Labor needs the best representation, regardless of the country they come from, the religion they subscribe to, and the color they happen to be."

Rose Schneiderman, president of the Women's Trade Union League, predicted that the time will come when America will realize that discrimination against race and religion is outworn and shameful, and urged that British women be told:

"In the postwar, we cannot relegate the millions of women now in the war effort to underpaid and limited job opportunities."

## Equal Union Rating For All

WASHINGTON, D. C., (ANP)

—In step with the recent trend to curb job discrimination is an act by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers, a faction of the AFL that is known for its bias practices. The order which is 336,000 members strong last week voted to elevate its status. Up until now the com-

On her return in about two months, Mrs. Springer and her co-delegate, Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, Boston, will tour the U. S. A. reporting their experiences to union meetings.

Mrs. Springer joined the ILGWU a dozen years ago, and for the last two has been educational director of the Plastics Workers Union, Local 132, ILGWU. Her husband Owen, is a welder in a shipyard. They have one son, Eric, 15. Mrs. Springer, in 1940, ran for the Assembly as an American Labor Party candidate in Harlem.

Crediting the ILGWU with breaking down for her the economic barrier of color, Mrs. Springer said:

"Belonging to the union gave me the same kind of chance everybody else had. I don't think I could work hard enough or do enough to compensate for all this."

## Race Woman On Mission To Britain

WASHINGTON—Four representatives of American women workers, including one Negro trade unionist, were named last week, at the invitation of the British Ministry of Information, to visit Great Britain in an exchange designed to bring about a better understanding between the two peoples at war. Later, four British women workers will return the visit.

Named for the visit to Britain are Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker, representing the American Federation of Labor, and Mrs. Grace Woods Blackett and Miss Anne Murkovich of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, will be the other AFL representative.

## VISITED WASHINGTON TO MEET OFFICIALS

The women were selected by their respective unions, and the Office of Labor Production of the War Production Board co-operated with the Office of War Information in making the arrangements for the trip. The four women were in Washington on Thursday, Friday and Saturday when they were presented to officials of the various war agencies and representatives of labor groups.

In discussing with British women workers their common problems and interests, they will help meet the demands in Britain for first-hand information about the American war production front, since they will be able to describe the every-day life of the American worker, OWI stated.

Mrs. Springer lives at 730-A Macon Street, Brooklyn. She joined the ILGWU a dozen years ago, and for the last two years has been educational director of the Plastic Workers Union, Local 132, ILGWU. Her husband, Owen, is a welder in a shipyard. They have a son, Eric, age 15. Crediting the ILGWU with breaking down, for her, the economic barrier of color, Mrs. Springer said:

"Belonging to the union gave me the same kind of chance everybody else had. I don't think I could work hard enough or do enough to compensate for all this."

## Women Labor Leaders Are Going to England In Good-Will Exchange With 4 From There

New York Times

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9—A good will exchange of four women labor leaders of this country for four English women labor leaders, as was done with men labor leaders last year, was announced today by the Office of War Information. Of the American delegation OWI said:

"In discussing with British women war workers their common problems and interests, they will help meet the demand in Britain for more first-hand information from the United States war production front."

The delegation will consist of two representatives of the American Federation of Labor and two of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Three names were given out today.

Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker of Boston, member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, for thirty-two years and for twenty years president of the telephone operators department of the international, ha-

standing between the two peoples at war. Later, four British women workers will return the visit. Named for the visit to Britain are Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker, representing the American Federation of Labor, and Mrs. Grace Woods Blackett and Miss Anne Murkovich of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, will be the other AFL representative.



Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer

Mrs. Grace Woods Blackett of Detroit, an international representative of the United Automobile Workers, in negotiations with employers in the seamless division of the Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, CIO industry in Reading and its surrounding communities. She is a native of Yugoslavia and an American citizen.

Springer was given yesterday by the ILGWU at the Park Central Hotel, presided over by David Dubinsky, president of the union, who suggested Mrs. Springer to Mr. Green for appointment to the mission. More than 100 labor leaders and representatives of Negro organizations were present.

Guest at Luncheon Here

Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer, a Miss Anne Murkovich of Reading, sent the union on problems affecting women in industry.





**UNION LEADERS IN ENGLAND**—The four union wives of the AFL. Mrs. Grace E. Woods, aircraft leaders and war workers who arrived in England recently for a six weeks' visit as guests of the Ministry of Information are shown being interviewed by the British press. Left to right: Mrs. Maida Stewart, AFL, president of the Telephone Operators Department; Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker, dressmaker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, New York; Miss Anna Murkovich, organizer for the Housing of the Homeless, New York; and Mrs. Ellen Wilkinson, Secretary to the Minister of Home Security, London.

## Women's Delegation To England Studies Wartime Conditions In The British Isles

WASHINGTON—The delegation of four American women workers, including a Negro trade unionist, continued last week to study wartime conditions of security, rationing and housing in England, according to cabled reports received by the Office of War Information. The delegation, consisting of Mrs. Maida Stewart, AFL, New York City; Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker, AFL, Boston; Miss Anna Murkovich, Reading, Pa.; and Mrs. Ellen Wilkinson, London, arrived in England last week. They are being hosted by the Ministry of Information. The delegation is studying the problems of the working classes and labor problems. They also visited the fire control room for the whole London region, in the company of a delegation of visiting Belgian fire service officers, and witnessed a film of the fire raids of Dec. 29, 1940, during which a large part of the city was burned down. They also visited the fire control room for the whole London region, in the company of a delegation of visiting Belgian fire service officers, and witnessed a film of the fire raids of Dec. 29, 1940, during which a large part of the city was burned down.

On Monday, Feb. 26, two of the four women—Mrs. Maida Stewart and Mrs. Julia O'Connor Parker—visited the Ministry of Food and discussed the British food rationing system with Walter Thompson, the Ministry's official representative for liaison with the trade union movement. They visited the experimental kitchen of the ministry and studied the special food requirements of miners, munition workers and other specialized groups.

At the same time, the two CIO members of the delegation—Mrs. Grace Woods Blackett, Chicago, and Miss Anne Murkovich, Reading, Pa.—inspected several proposed post-war housing developments, studying examples of temporary, permanent and prefabricated dwellings. In the evening the whole group dined with leaders of the Workers' Education Association, including Harold E. Clay, president; Arthur Greech Jones, vice president, Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Labor; Ernest Green, secretary, and Har-

### Women Trade Unionists Visit Queen Of England

By GEORGE PADMORE  
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—Maida Springer, New York Negro trade unionist who with three white companions is touring Great Britain, was entertained at Buckingham Palace Wednesday as a guest of Queen Elizabeth. The only Negro representative sent abroad under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor, Mrs. Springer gave Her Majesty her impressions of the contributions being made by British women workers to the war effort. After leaving the palace the trade unionist said: "The Queen was most charming, and we were all delighted by her kindness and

**WOMEN LABOR LEADERS**  
Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer, member of Local 22 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, made history this week when she was designated as one of four women labor leaders of this country who will participate in a good will exchange of women labor leaders from England.

This is no empty honor which has come to Mrs. Springer because she is the first Negro woman ever to be sent abroad as a representative of American labor. Part of the discussions abroad will be talks with British women war workers on their common problems and interests and the delegation of four will help meet the demand in Britain for more first-hand information from the United States war production front.

Her selection as one of the two representatives of the American Federation of Labor is also significant because it comes at a time when Negroes have just finished their perennial fight at an AFL convention against discrimination within AFL unions. With selection of a Negro woman as one of AFL's two women delegates, it raises the general level of all Negroes within the AFL orbit, even though the discriminatory pattern has not been abolished by the whole body as a matter of policy.



# Coast Court Blasts AFL Jim Crow Locals In Ruling On Shipyard Bias

Chicago Defender

ILL.

By JOHN ROBERT BADGER  
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

LOS ANGELES—Negro boiler-makers may soon begin a coast-wide boycott against AFL boiler-maker auxiliaries if the lead adopted in San Francisco is followed in other coast cities. 1-13-45

Following last week's California Supreme Court decision, which held that a closed shop contract may not set "arbitrary" standards for union membership and specifically may not refuse membership to Negroes, Joseph James, president of the San Francisco branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and a leader in the fight against the jim crow auxiliaries, said his organization is recommending that all payment of dues to auxiliaries be stopped immediately.

The decision ended a number of disputes on appeal between Negro shipyard workers and Boilermaker auxiliaries on the west coast. It is also expected to have a direct influence on all courts in the United States, and will set an additional precedent for recognizing and enforcing the rights of minorities.

## Quasi-Public Position

Filed on December 30, 1944, the decision was unanimous. Chief Justice Phil S. Gibson, its author, declared, "in our opinion an arbitrary closed union is incompatible with the closed shop... where a union has as in this case, attained a monopoly of the supply of labor by means of a closed shop agreement and other forms of collective labor action, such a union occupies a quasi-public position similar to that of a public service business and it has corresponding obligations." 1-13-45

"If the union imposes unreasonable and discriminatory restrictions upon Negroes not placed upon members of Local No. 2 (a local for whites only) and if the auxiliary does not afford its members privileges and protection substantially afforded to members of Local No. 6 (another local for whites only) then to compel Negroes to join the auxiliary, upon penalty of discharge, is equivalent to a complete denial of union membership."

The decision followed months of litigation begun when a group of Negro workers employed at Marinship shipbuilding yards refused to join the auxiliary union and brought suit. Leading the fight against jim crow was James, head of the San Francisco Committee Against Discrimination and Segregation; Ray Thompson, head of a similar committee in Alameda county; and Walter Williams, guid-



JOSEPH JAMES

ing the same kind of organization here in Los Angeles.

## Pro-Union Fight

Comment on the decision was instantaneous. Said James: "We have obtained in this decision what we were fighting for—that is the privilege of coming to the union not as Negroes but as Americans. We have conducted our battle strictly on a pro-union basis. We engaged in no underhanded knocks at the Boilermakers' union or at the labor movement."

Thompson said: "I think that this decision will bolster the morale of the Negro people, not only in this area, but throughout the United States. It will also make more tangible to the men in uniform, both black and white, that for which they are fighting. It is concrete proof that democracy can be won, but must be fought for."

Meanwhile, Charles Janigian, attorney for the AFL Boilermakers, announced intention of asking the state Supreme Court for a rehearing and declared that the Boilermakers will fight to reverse the case "all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court."

## Threat to Closed Shop

Strategy of Janigian has already been revealed as an attempt to show the decision constitutes a threat to the closed shop. His argument is calculated, therefore, to turn the entire labor movement against Negro workers.

Commenting on this strategy, George Andersen, of the law firm of Andersen and Resner, counsel for the Negro boilermakers, emphasized that the closed shop was not affected except in relation to Negro workers. Andersen cited a part of the decision which said: "Negroes must be admitted to membership under the same terms

and conditions applicable to non-Negroes unless the union and the employer refrain from enforcing the closed agreement against them."

This, Andersen interpreted to mean that the union must either accept Negroes on a full and equal basis in the regular local, or give up its closed shop terms in relation to Negro boilermakers only, not in relation to white workers.

The press release issued by the Supreme Court clerk's office paraphrased the decision as follows: "Negro employees at Marinship must be admitted to membership in the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, etc., union under the same terms and conditions as non-Negroes, or the union and the employer cannot enforce the closed shop agreement against them."

# NLRB Directs AFL Local to Admit Colored Members

AFro-American

3-10-45

RICHMOND—The National Labor Relations Board has directed Local 219, Tobacco Workers' International Union, AFL, to admit colored workers to full membership or else have its certification as bargaining agency at Larus and Brothers Company, tobacco manufacturers, revoked.

The local heretofore has restricted colored membership to a separately chartered local known as 219-B, which had separate officers and held separate meetings. 3-10-45

Contrary to National Policy The ruling, handed down by Frank Bloom, NLRB trial examiner, declared that by establishing the separate local, the union had engaged in "discriminatory segregation" not only contrary to the board's frequently stated policy but also to the national policy expressed by the President.

The AFL affiliate won an NLRB election last March for certification as bargaining agency for production and maintenance employees, defeating a rival CIO union 315 to 170.

Immediately thereafter, the CIO petitioned the NLRB to rescind the bargaining rights of the AFL unit, charging that it refused to bargain for colored workers and denied them full membership.

## Hearings Held in January

Hearings on the charges were aired here for three days in January and it was testified by George Benjamin, vice-president of AFL

# Negro Woman Named To Overseas Labor Mission

Chicago Defender

ILL.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The first Negro woman to represent American labor abroad will leave for England this week with three other women unionists, it was announced this week. 1-20-45

Mrs. Maida Stewart Springer, of New York, dressmaker and member of Local 22 of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers, was chosen by AFL President William Green to represent the federation on a good will mission to the women workers of England.

The delegation will consist of two women members of the American Federation of Labor and two from the Congress of Industrial Organizations. 1-20-45

The women will address a series of meetings with British women



MRS. MAIDA S. SPRINGER

war workers in munitions centers and make a comparative study of war work conditions in that country.

Mrs. Springer, 34-year-old native of the Canal Zone, is a graduate of the Bordentown, N. J., Training school. She became a dressmaker 12 years ago. In recent years she has been active in labor education work and is now the educational officer of the Plastic Workers Union, Local 132, ILGWU.

Also active in politics, Mrs. Springer in 1940 ran for the Assembly as candidate of the American Labor Party in one of the Harlem districts. 1-20-45

"Belonging to the union gave me the same chance everybody else had," said Mrs. Springer, crediting the ILGWU with breaking down economic color barriers. "I don't think I could work hard enough or do enough to compensate for this," she added.

union international, that he advised colored members to form a separate local in order to "develop leadership." 3-10-45

In what may be a far-reaching ruling affecting so-called jim-crow locals, the trial examiner held that the arrangement by Local 219:

"Vitiated the purpose and intent of the board in its determination of the unit;

"Engaged in discriminatory segregation, and 3-10-45

"Violated rights guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution."

The AFL affiliate has fifteen days from the day of the ruling to comply with the recommendations of NLRB, or else the board will revoke its certification.



# A F L Stands Pat; N N C Presses Demand For Action

NEW YORK — (ANP) — American Federation of Labor President William Green, in answer to a request from more than 150 national leaders that the AFL Executive Council meeting in Miami ban jim crow auxiliaries, last week wired the National Negro Congress that auxiliary locals "will be eliminated as rapidly as circumstances and conditions will permit." The wire stated further that the executive council "will carry out the instructions given it by the convention of the American Federation of Labor."

Pointing out that "developments subsequent to the convention— notably the U. S. Supreme court decision of the railroads and the California Supreme court decision on the Boilermakers—make action imperative at this time," Dorothy K. Funn, NNC Labor secretary, requested Mr. Green to inform the congress exactly what were the convention's instructions to the council, in order that the congress might pass that information on to the signers of the statement.

Demanding that the executive council put itself on record for immediate abolition of jim crow locals as a matter of policy, and enunciate "sanctions or penalties for violation of that policy," Miss Funn declared that only such action would show that the "federation is on the road to full democracy and full participation of its membership in the nation's war effort and its future economic plans."

## Claim Union Was Unfair to Negroes

BY DANIEL L. WELLS  
Free Press Staff Writer

Inability of "interstate trucking companies to hire Negroes as drivers because of the regulations of Local 299, Teamsters Union (AFL)," was detailed Saturday in testimony before the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

Malcolm Ross, chairman, and five members of the committee heard the evidence.

Experienced Negro truck drivers testified that they had been refused jobs because of the union ban. Officials of the United States Employment Service told of complaints from Negroes who had been referred to jobs through the Service.

NO REPRESENTATIVE of the union appeared. The FEPC does not have the power of subpoena. James Hoffa, business agent of the joint council of the union, had been asked to appear.

The trucking companies, cited for discrimination along with the union, were: The White Star Trucking Co., Mannion Express Co., Shippers Dispatch, Inc., McFarren Cartage Co., Opland Trucking Co., Detroit Delivery Co., Dealers Transport Co., Associated Truck Lines, Fourteenth Ave. Cartage Co., U. S. Truck Co. and the Douglas Trucking Lines.

The case against the White Star Trucking Co. was dismissed late in the afternoon.

SEVERAL truck drivers testified. Oscar Purdy, of 19912 Washburn, and Charles Joiner said they were refused jobs because of their race.

Festus Hairston, 37, of 8774 Cameron, testified that although he was a member of the union he found the way closed to him when he tried to get a driving job.

Hairston stated that he attended a meeting of "30 or 40" members of the union at which he made a request that he be allowed to drive.

HE THEN was asked to leave the group while it deliberated, Hairston said, and was later informed by Hoffa that he would have to work as a dock hand or warehouseman.

Hairston testified he owned his own truck and the White Star Co. wanted to hire him. After the dispute the union refused to let him pay any more dues, he claimed.

Cyrenius Newcomb, USES director, said the "uncompromising stand of Hoffa prevented the hiring of Negroes" by the truck companies.

FOR A WHILE during 1944 the USES refused to refer drivers to these trucking companies because

of the discrimination, he said. Finally referrals were resumed because trucking work was vital and the FEPC was preparing for a hearing.

USES and FEPC officials testified that managers of trucking firms usually said they were willing to hire Negroes as drivers, but were prevented by union regulations.

The manager of the U. S. Truck Co. told Edward M. Swann, examiner in charge of the Detroit FEPC office, that a Local 299 business agent told him that if he "put Negroes to work as drivers, the rest of the drivers would quit work."

Owners of Shippers Dispatch told the FEPC that a union agent told them "not to hire Negroes, but to tell them there were no jobs open."

### DETROIT, MICH. NEWS

Cir. D. 340,022 — S. 404,142

JUN 4 - 1945

## Snub Is Given by Teamsters

### Practices Committee Hearing Ignored

The Teamsters Union (AFL) today snubbed the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices by ignoring a hearing in the Federal Building, called by the committee.

Malcolm Ross, committee chairman, said he had no authority to subpoena witnesses or otherwise force attendance.

The hearing was called on charges that Negro workers have been barred from jobs as truck drivers, solely because of their race, in violation of an executive order of the President.

Trucking company spokesmen said they were afraid to employ Negro truck drivers because of the threat of strikes. Witnesses for the United States Employment Service, who investigated the charges, said the opposition of business agents of the union was the main stumbling block to employment of Negroes.

Robert E. Des Roches, attorney for the Associated Trucking Lines, asked the committee to adjourn the hearing today until union officials could be present. Ross decided to proceed with the hearing, however.

Most of the charges deal with the years 1942 and 1943, when the manpower shortage on war work was

acute. During that period, it was testified, the USES received more than 500 complaints of Negroes being denied truck driver jobs.

# Southern AFL Chief Admits Jimcrow Policy

WASHINGTON, June 24.—George Googe, Southern Director of Organization for the AFL, brazenly admitted that jimcrow is an accepted practice of the AFL at an NLRB hearing here recently.

Googe asked the NLRB not to punish the AFL for tolerating one jimcrow local in the South.

Googe testified at NLRB hearings on charges of AFL discrimination against Negro workers in the Larus and Brother Tobacco plant at Richmond, Va. The charges were brought by the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union against the AFL Tobacco Workers International.

The hearings followed a recommendation by NLRB trial examiner Frank Bloom that AFL certification in the Larus be revoked unless Negro workers be notified that they are eligible for membership in the white local and not segregated in another local.



# New Orleans Shipbuilders Win New Union Charter

NEW ORLEANS—A united stand by more than 700 colored Delta Shipbuilding Company workers of Local 270 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers, AFL, came to a victorious climax recently when an agreement between the disgruntled signed in the suite of J. M. Gil-workers and the internationallespie, general secretary-treasurer union was signed and a new charter of the international union, in ter was issued.

## AGREE ON SIX POINTS

Terms of the agreement are as follows:

(1) A charter will be issued covering shipyard warehousemen inretary; Fletcher Henderson, three-year trustee, and Joseph Sutton, one-year trustee.  
(2) Jurisdiction of the Delta Shipyard drivers will be settled by an election under secret ballot; (3) Continuance or discontinuance of the \$3 dues for all remaining in Local 270 will be decided by a membership vote on or before Feb. 1, 1945  
(4) All former employees of Delta Shipyard will be returned to seniority without discrimination, including J. D. Wilson, Julius Pope and Charles Collins; (5) The building material men will be reinstated as members in good standing on payment of \$4.50 a month, and (6) The Delta men will go through the union office and, where the individual is not financially capable of paying back dues in full, such individual will be given two pay days (15 days) in which to pay the full amount.

The agreement was signed by Thomas E. Flynn, white, acting international president, with J. D. Wilson and the Revs. V. J. O'Connell and J. A. Drolet as witnesses. Arbitration of the dispute, growing out of protest by the teamsters of alleged "Hitleristic dictatorship" by certain union officials, was completed through a conference of the Catholic Committee of the South, the Labor and Industry Department, headed by the Rev. Vincent J. O'Connell and the Rev. Jerome A. Drolet, between the secretary and acting general president, and a committee representing the aggrieved workers.

The workers' protest committee represented in the conference was J. D. Wilson, discharged driver of Delta Shipyard and president of the new Local 965, with headquarters at 315 South Rampart Street; Carroll G. Bolding, former Local 270 secretary-treasurer and present holder of the same office for Local 965; Elliott Sanders, warehouse leaderman of Delta Shipyard and Local 965 trustee; Frederick K. Hyde, former local 270 vice president and holder of the same office for Local 965, who represented the building materials division.

## CATHOLIC PRIESTS AID

Father O'Connell is a professor of Notre Dame Seminary and Father Drolet is assistant pastor of St. Matthias Catholic Church. The agreement was reached and

Roosevelt Hotel.

The Local 965 charter was installed Saturday night, Dec. 30. Other officers, besides Messrs. Wilson, Hyde, Bolding and Sanders, are Sumner Arnolite, recording secretary; Fletcher Henderson, three-year trustee, and Joseph Sutton, one-year trustee.

## Labor Forum

THE ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT IN AMERICA IS WEAK WHEN IT COMES FACE TO FACE WITH ORGANIZED INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS, because labor is divided into three powerful and competing national organizations—the AFL (American Federation of Labor, with seven million members), the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations with six and a half million members), and the Railroad Brotherhoods (with one million members). This division and rivalry is not simply a question of a struggle for power between the leaders of these separate organizations. The root of the evil is to be found in differences over basic policy, with the AFL and Brotherhoods on one side and the CIO on the other.

## Labor Difference

While these differences are many, Mr. Weston, two are more fundamental than the others. First, the AFL and Brotherhoods have concerned themselves primarily with organizing the skilled and semi-skilled workers, creating an aristocracy of labor, based on limiting the supply of skilled workers. Second, these two groups have for the most part followed a policy of racial discrimination, excluding, limiting or segregating Negro workers. The CIO, on the other hand, since it was organized in 1935, has followed a policy of organizing all workers, skilled and unskilled, without discrimination on account of race, creed, color or national origin. In fact, the CIO national constitution specifically forbids discrimination by any of its affiliates. To help make this policy work, the CIO has established a national committee to combat discrimination both within and without the CIO.

## A Foolish Policy

Out of necessity, the CIO, on the one hand, and the AFL and Brotherhoods, on the other, could find some way to get together, if the only problem were the question of organizing skilled and unskilled and questions of jurisdiction. The differences over racial policy permits no compromise. The CIO will not yield. The AFL and Brotherhoods refuse to change voluntarily their foolish policy.

Thirty-one national unions discriminate against Negroes—fourteen by constitution and eight by

custom and tradition, and nine by segregating Negroes in Jim Crow locals. Of these thirty-one, twenty are affiliates of the AFL, six are Railroad Brotherhoods, and five are independents. Some of these AFL affiliates are among the largest and most powerful unions in this country, such as the International Association of Machinists and the Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Welders and Helpers.

## FEPC Opposition

It is common knowledge that, while the national AFL has had a representative on the temporary federal FEPC, most officials and affiliates of the AFL have been lukewarm towards and in some instances have opposed both the temporary and the proposed permanent federal FEPC, because unions have been included in the ban on discrimination. Many feel that the present deadlock in Congress over granting further appropriation of money to the temporary FEPC might have been broken, had the AFL thrown its full support in the fight to save the FEPC. Many individual AFL leaders and locals have opposed this sabotage of the FEPC.

In New York State the door is now open to end discrimination in AFL unions and thus remove this obstacle to unity in labor's ranks. The NY SCAD (N. Y. State Commission Against Discrimination), which opened offices for business last week, has the authority and responsibility to end discrimination by labor organizations, according to Section 131 of the law which went into effect July 1. It is now up to Negro members of Jim Crow locals of the AFL in New York State or Negro applicants to other AFL or Brotherhood locals, to file complaints with the SCAD without delay.

## The Case Against Unions

The case against the unions which exclude Negro workers is clear. We can anticipate a favorable decision by Commission when a specific case is presented. The case against the Jim Crow locals is confused by previous court decisions, holding that segregation is not of itself discrimination. The new SCAD will render a real public service and strengthen foundations of democracy, if it will forthrightly and clearly declare that segregation is in and of itself discrimination. The AFL and Brotherhoods can, on their part, show good sense and patriotism by taking the initiative in ending the disgrace of discrimination in their ranks. In either case, the way is open to unity in labor's ranks—at least in New York State.





# Illinois AFL Demands End To 'Color Bar' in Unions

By CARL HIRSCH

*Daily Worker*

*n.y., n.y.*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Nov. 5.—The Illinois Federation of Labor convention, in its closing session here, demanded an end to discriminatory "color bars" in AFL unions. This action reflected the rank and file quality of this convention, which set the "Old Guard" back on their heels. The 1,200 delegates wound up their convention the WFTU. The executive Council take steps to enter with a score of progressive resolutions.

Homebound delegates were gratified that they had spoken clearly in favor of the World Federation of Trade Unions in spite of the anti-Soviet die-hards. The convention finally passed a "compromise" resolution which spoke vaguely of world unity without mentioning any organization. This declaration was written by secretary-treasurer Victor Olander who led the fight against a forthright endorsement of the WFTU which had the backing of large sections of the delegates.

The convention unanimously lashed Jimcrow practices in Springfield hotels after delegate George J. Wachowski, president of the Chicago Post Office Clerks Union No. 1, revealed that two Negro members of his delegation had been evicted from the Elks Club, where the convention was held.

**OPPOSE LEWIS** 11-6-45  
The convention flatly opposed the readmission of John L. Lewis into the AFL. This action came on a resolution introduced by John Marchiando, president of the AFL Progressive Miners of America.

Another resolution adopted unanimously charged that the recent anti-Negro strikes in Chicago "have been fostered by groups outside the schools to the great detriment of educational opportunity and good feeling in the local communities."

The convention reaffirmed the previous position of the ISFL against compulsory military training.

Delegates of the Teachers Union led a sharp fight for calling a state constitution convention to remodel Illinois' antiquated constitution. This battle was directed against the Olander crowd, which had sided with the Republican state administration and the Chicago Tribune against constitutional reform.

**WFTU BATTLE** 11-6-45

In a two-hour floor battle, delegates from almost every large delegation demanded that the AFL Ex-

The following day the issue came up again as other delegates joined in demanding affiliation.

The resolution was finally resubmitted to the resolutions committee for redrafting.

The delegates failed to get action on their demands that the convention take a clear-cut position for a 30 percent wage increase. Support for veterans' legislation was also sidetracked by referral to the executive committee.

However, the convention did pass the following resolutions unanimously:

For a permanent FEPC; condemning the Ball-Burton-Hatch bill; supporting a 65-cent minimum wage; calling for more rigid price and rent controls; lashing Senator Bilbo and Gerald L. K. Smith; urging that the Chicago Board of Education include in its high school curriculum "materials which will create better understanding among racial groups."

the change "that Chicago school strikes have been fostered in recent weeks by groups outside the schools to the great detriment of educational opportunity and good feeling in the local communities."

## INFLUENCE URGED

All delegates were called upon "to use their influence in abolishing the discriminatory color bars in unions" in the second resolution while the third called upon congress to pass the Norton-Chavez permanent fair employment practice bill.

Local hospitals were condemned in the fourth resolution for discrimination against Negroes. Two Negro members of the Chicago Post Office Clerks union No. 1 were rejected from their rooms in the Elks club, where the convention is being held, because of their race, George J. Wachowski, union president, disclosed.

The Illinois State Federation of Labor represents 700,000 workers throughout the state.

## Racial Discrimination Hit In Ill. AFL Resolutions

State Federation Represents

Around 700,000 Workers In Area

*Atlanta Daily World*  
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — (ANP) —

Four resolutions assailing racial discrimination were adopted here last week during the 63rd annual convention of the Illinois State Federation of Labor. 11-10-45

The first resolution, introduced by the Chicago Teachers union, urged the Chicago Board of Education to include in its high school curriculum "materials which create better understanding among all (racial) groups." The school board

was also commended for "its firm stand on equal educational opportunities for all children" along with



# American Women Trade Unionists Make A Four-Week Tour Of Great Britain *West African Pilot* Low Wages & Child Labour Criticised

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON.— Asserting that he which has been spent in the London area visiting factories and meeting with top-ranking labour officials, has also been afforded widespread opportunities of touring the great industrial centres of the country.

Accompanied by officials of the American Division of the Ministry of Information and representatives of OWI the four women — Mrs Springer, Mrs Julia O'Connor Parker, organiser of the AFL; Mrs Grace E. Blackett of the United Automobile Workers Union (CIO); and Miss Anne Murcovich, organiser of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers (CIO) — visited factories in Birmingham, Manchester, Crewe, Cardiff, Bristol, Leeds and Nottingham.

They also toured Glasgow and Edinburgh in Scotland.

With so much misunderstanding concerning the food situation in this country, Miss Murcovich dropped a bomb into the discussion by asserting that "British housewives appear to have all the food they need, whereas in the States even if the housewife has the points, she cannot always get meat."

She went on to say: "There is more meat in London shop windows than in our stores."

"Your women can always get rations; ours do not."

The general impression is that the British system of food distribution is better arranged than in America.

About one thing the Americans were assured: "Working conditions and wages were much worse in Britain than in America."

"Your workers have to work longer hours and for much lower wages — even taking the standards of living into account," said Miss Parker, who comes from the Ford Motor factory in Detroit.

When the Americans return home Britain for over a month, half of them will be accompanied by four

A.F.L.

British women workers who will tour the United States and then return to give the Britishers their impressions of working class conditions in the States.

## Brings Europe Relief *Daily Worker N.Y.* Plea to AFL Unionists

12-7-45  
By MAX GORDON

The liberated peoples of Europe face death this winter unless they get far greater material aid from America than they have been getting, according to Louis Weinstock, New York painters union leader who has just returned from six weeks in Europe.

Weinstock issued his warning late Wednesday evening in an address to some 1,200 AFL trade unionists in Manhattan Center. As reported in the late edition of yesterday's Daily Worker, the meeting was called to map the drive for AFL participation in the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The meeting was also addressed by two observers to the Paris conference, Charles Collins and Nick Lazari, officials of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union; by John Goodman, vice president of the Building Service Employees Union; and by Courtney Ward, chairman of the AFL Committee for Participation in WFTU, which sponsored the meeting 12-7-45

Weinstock gave a moving description of the starvation in countries liberated from the Nazis. The trade unions, he said, are taking the lead in reconstructing the political and economic life of these nations, but the lack of necessities is handicapping their efforts.

"There will be no peace and democracy in Europe if chaos is not averted," he said. "The European unionists told me to tell you that they need fewer resolutions, fewer expressions of sympathy, and more material help."

He proposed that the members of each union in America contribute bundles of food and clothing to be sent to like unions in the European nations. 12-7-45

Weinstock, who is playing a leading part in the campaign for AFL participation in the WFTU, denounced George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, for an anti-Soviet speech made a day earlier. Meany had demanded that Washington see to it that we stop "being pushed around" by the USSR.

"I notice," said Weinstock, "he did not charge we are being pushed around by the British imperialists, or by our own imperialists, or by the reactionary corporations that are trying to crush labor and drag down our living standards, or by the Master Builders who are sabotaging new homes for those who fought this war."



### AFL Leaders for World Unity:

Speakers at the Manhattan Center rally to inaugurate the campaign for AFL participation in the World Trade Union Federation included (left to right): John Goodman, international vice-president of the Building Service Union; Nick Lazari, official of Local 237, Hotel and Restaurant Workers; Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee; Thomas Wilson, secretary-treasurer of the Committee for AFL Participation in the WFTU; Louis Weinstock, secretary-treasurer of District Council 9, Painters Union; and Courtney Ward, chairman of the Committee and secretary of District Council 6, Painters Union.



# Dining Car Union Charges MPs On Trains Abuse Civilians' Rights

*Chicago Defender* 111.  
2-3-45

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS  
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON. — The attempts by military policemen on railroad trains to dictate to civilians was blasted this week by the AFL Joint Council of Dining Car Employees in an appeal to the U.S. War Department.

The council charged that many of the MPs overstep their bounds in the handling of situations involving passengers and dining car personnel.

According to J. M. McConnell, president of Local No. 495 of the Joint Council, the continued persistence of MPs to act as "snoopers" for train conductors and to otherwise interfere with dining car employees in the performance of their jobs has aggravated circumstances which in many cases have led to the arrest, conviction and dismissal of the employee.

## Ignore Regulations

Contrary to War Department regulations McConnell said, in the past few months numbers of cases have been brought to the attention of the union in which military police have not only interfered with dining car employees at the request of train stewards, conductors and civilian travelers, but have gone so far as to have them taken off trains, arrested, fined and fired.

The union especially requested the War Department to rule in the case of John M. Wise of Washington, D. C., former dining car employee on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, who after alleged altercations with two MPs was arrested, and subsequently fired.

The disturbance which took place last October 30 arose when Wise attempted to serve WAC Lieut. J.

L. Ward, a Negro, after she had refused to be seated behind a curtain in the rear of the diner, as the car neared Rocky Mount, N. C. Lt. Ward, traveling from New York to the South entered the dining car and took the first vacant seat at a table with a white second lieutenant. Objecting to her presence, the officer promptly moved, whereupon Steward J. A. Newman ordered her to the rear of the car. When Lt. Ward refused, he called two white MPs riding the train, Sgt. Olen C. Boyd, and Pvt. James T. Arwood and asked them to have her moved. Lt. Ward ignored their request and asked waiter Wise to serve her breakfast. Here one of the MPs told Wise "You have no right to serve her under North Carolina state laws."

Wise contended it was his responsibility to serve any passenger on request. Moreover the WAC

lieutenant was an interstate passenger, therefore exempt from such state regulations.

## Fined And Discharged

As the train approached the Rocky Mount stop, civilian policemen for whom the conductor had wired ahead entered the train and arrested Wise. He was convicted and fined \$25 and a \$7 court cost.

McConnell said Wise was within his rights to serve the WAC lieutenant upon request and that the white MP had overstepped his authority as dining car employees are classed as civilian personnel.

Later Wise was called to the office of the superintendent of the railroad and following brief hearings, in which all odds were against him, was kicked off of his job.

An appeal has been made to the general manager of the railroad. The complete file on the case has been turned over to the office of the War Department's Provost Marshal for review.

## Quick Report Urged

McConnell said both Col. Walsh and Maj. McNeill fully expect military police of which there are some 30,000 riding trains to follow regulations. Where such regulations are ignored or disobeyed the War Department will take appropriate steps when such infractions are brought to their attention.

McConnell said, "The only way we can lick this situation is for our dining car employees and other civilians who may be molested by MPs to report such incidents as they occur to the proper authorities in the War Department."

"The War Department vigorously denies any claim made to union officials by dining car management that they have an agreement whereby MPs are to assist in seeing that waiters carry out the rules of the company," McConnell said.

## Represents 21 Roads

While the War Department, as stated by Maj. McNeill, is anxious that MPs give all the assistance they can to the railroads, McConnell said he emphatically declared that any case in which they exceed their authority will result in removal.

The Joint Council of Dining Car Employees of which Solon C. Bell is chairman is the bargaining agent for dining car employees on more than 21 principal "A" class railroads throughout the country.



# COURT BIDS UNION TAKE IN NEGROES

New York Times

California High Tribunal Rules

Boilermakers Must End Its

Curbs in Closed Shop

1-3-45

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Jan. 2

The State Supreme Court ruled unanimously today that a labor union must admit Negroes to full membership or not try to enforce a closed shop agreement.

"The union may not maintain both a closed shop and an arbitrarily closed or partially closed union," Chief Justice Philip S. Gibson wrote in a decision which, if it is not overturned, may be the most significant handed down by this court in more than thirty years, according to labor lawyers.

The case arose from the refusal of Local 6 of the Boilermakers Union, AFL, to admit Negroes, insisting instead that they join a Negro auxiliary. A group of Negro employees at the Marinship Corporation's yards at Sausalito refused to join what they called a "Jim Crow union" and obtained a preliminary injunction on Feb. 17 restraining Marinship from discharging them under a closed shop agreement. The supreme court decision affirmed the action of County Judge Edward I. Butler.

In our opinion," Justice Gibson wrote, "an arbitrarily closed or partially closed union is incompatible with a closed shop. Where a union has, as in this case, attained a monopoly of the supply of labor by means of closed shop agreements and other forms of collective labor action, such a union occupies a quasi-public position similar to that of a public service business and it has certain corresponding obligations."

"It may no longer claim the same freedom from legal restraint enjoyed by golf clubs or fraternal associations. Its asserted right to choose its members does not merely relate to social relations; it affects the fundamental right to work for a living."

Justice Gibson ruled that "the discriminatory practices involved in this case are contrary to the public policy of the United States and this State," and added:

"Negroes must be admitted to membership under the same terms and conditions applicable to non-Negroes unless the union and the employer refrain from enforcing the closed shop agreement against them."

Charles J. Janigan, attorney for the local, said that he would ask for a rehearing. Should this be denied, he said, the case would be tried in the lower court, for the

preliminary injunction was issued on the basis of a complaint and counter affidavits without the taking of evidence.

## Ready To Contest Decision

# AFL Boilermakers' Union Chooses 'Die-Hard' Attitude

SAN FRANCISCO—The AFL Boilermakers Union has chosen the "die-hard" attitude

and, according to Charles Janigan, the union's attorney in the Marinship "jim-crow" auxiliary case, will contest the decision all the way to the United States Supreme Court if preliminary legal requirements can be met. The statement contesting the decision came last week following the California maintenance of a closed shop, and State Supreme Court's unanimous ruling, which enjoined the union and Marinship from forcing Negro workers to join separate auxiliary locals as a condition of employment.

### ORDERED COMPLIANCE

The decision also ordered the labor organization to grant Negroes full membership or give up the closed shop agreement with the shipbuilding company. The far-reaching decision was read by Chief Justice Phil Gibson.

The ruling grew out of action taken more than a year ago in Marin County Superior Court by Negro workers at the yard, who demanded the right to become full members of the union or disregard conditions of the closed shop in order to work. The California court's ruling was given added weight by the previous decision of the U. S. Supreme Court deciding against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers in favor of Negro firemen.

Position of the Negro workers was sustained and the action was appealed. Two other cases also are on appeal before the California Court.

### FACTS NOT HEARD

In commenting on the case, Attorney Janigan said the case as yet has not really been tried on the facts as it came from Superior Judge Butler's court in Marin on a preliminary injunction. He said he would file for a rehearing and if turned down would go back to the Marin court. He indicated that at that time "Negroes would really have to prove that discrimination exists."

Mr. Janigan made it plain that he would continue action until granted a writ of certiorari so the Boilermakers might go again to the U. S. Supreme Court.

### NAACP TO UNIONS

The most recent action of the NAACP regarding labor unions that maintain separate locals of auxiliaries for Negroes is a circular letter from Thurgood M. Marshall, counsel for the organization, pointing out the import of recent court decisions. The letter states in part:

"It is clearly the purport and effect of these decisions that the exclusion of Negroes from union membership or their segregation into separate or auxiliary unions is legally incompatible with the

Boilermakers Union, AFL

DO NOT COMPLY 1-20-45

International Association of Machinists, Airline Pilots' Association, National Organization Masters, Mates and Pilots; Order of Railroad Telegraphers, Railway Mail Association, Switchmen's Union of North America, American Wire Weavers' Protective Association, Railroad Yardmasters of America, Railroad Yardmasters of North America;

Order of Railway Conductors, American Train Dispatchers' Association, Asbestos Workers, Heat and Frost Insulators; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, American Flint Glass Workers' Union, Granite Cutters' International Association, United Association of Journeymen, Plumbers and Steamfitters; Seafarers' International Union;

Pacific Coast Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders, and Wipers' Association; Brotherhood of Blacksmiths Drop Forgers and Helpers; Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Welders and Helpers; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Federation of Rural Letter Carriers, Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, American Federation of Railroad Workers, and the Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

## Boilermakers spurn Negro applicants

1-15-45

RICHMOND — Over 10 Negro boilermaker craftsmen visited the headquarters of AFL Boilermakers Local 513 here to apply for membership in the local, but Business Agent Homer Patton refused to see any spokesmen.

He sent a subordinate out to speak to the Negroes instead. Although he did not reveal his name, he said he was authorized by Patton to state that the recent state Supreme Court ruling against Boilermaker auxiliaries did not apply to Local 513.

Although it is true that the decision against auxiliaries was made

in a specific case involving Marinship Negroes, legal authorities point out that the issues decided by the court apply to all unions.

Cleophas Brown, president of the Richmond branch of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, who was in the delegation, declared that the action was taken to show the sincerity of the desire of Negro workers to join the Boilermakers Union.

## Score Jimcrow In AFL Union

3-17-45

The National Negro Congress sent a protest yesterday to Charles J. McGowan, president of the AFL International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, against the union's reported plan to set up independent locals of Negro members.

Under the plan as discussed, all Negro locals would be affiliated direct to the international, separate from white locals at their respective plants, with power to bargain directly with management.

The Boilermakers, long under fire for their Jimcrow policies, seek through this device to avoid further criticism.

Thelma M. Dale, Congress acting secretary, wrote McGowan:

"If these reports are correct, we consider the action an obvious attempt to meet the letter and subvert the spirit of recent court decisions regarding union membership rights of Negroes."

By setting up what appear to be separate locals to bargain with one management, the international is actually putting locals into competition, she charged.



## BROADWAY TO PARIS

# Ex-Actor Delegate To World Trade Union Meet

929-45

By BEN BURNS  
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

PARIS—Lone American Negro at the historic World Trade Union Conference opening here Tuesday, September 25, is husky, handsome Charles A. Collins, ex-WPA actor from Harlem who traded his thespian talents for union organizing eight years ago.

Strangely enough Collins is an AFL unionist, although William Green and his AFL cohorts are boycotting this epochal meeting here which may plant the seeds for a world political action committee.

Collins is one of two very unofficial observers from AFL unions, but Collins does not come to Paris without significant credentials, aside from the National Negro Congress and the Council on African Affairs which he represents.

## Represents 650,000 Unionists

He is a spokesman on the parley floor for the politically potent Negro Labor Victory committee of Harlem which has 107 AFL and CIO affiliates, and claims to represent some 650,000 unionists, Negro and white.

Perhaps because this hotel and restaurant employees union business agent is the sole American of color at this world labor conference, he cannot but speak for the thirteen million darker brothers in the United States.

Collins is certainly a capable, alert and militant representative for Negro America. He sees his job in Paris through the eyes of the common man with a black skin.

## Cheap Labor A Threat

"What would the average Negro like to see come out of this conference?" he says. "Essentially, he wants these union men from around the world to do something to see that Negroes and colonials take their part as equals in the world."

"The job naturally falls on labor as the most progressive segment of the world's population. As long as Negroes both in colonial and free nations can be kept as cheap slave labor, solely because of their skin complexion, working men of whatever color, face a threat to their security and living standards."

"Because of this threat, world labor should undertake the task of smashing the colonial system down strikes protesting against the and the last vestiges of color exploitation which hang on in democratic nations. Our own color bars, particularly, whether in Capetown or Charleston, must go."

if free labor is to live."

## Born In West Indies

Collins does more than generalize. He is taking with him to the parley a detailed blueprint for the setting up of a department on Negro and colonial labor with a full time staff to lead the battle against imperialism in any shape or form.

He himself has had a taste of colonialism, and knows whereof he speaks. Until he was 16 he lived on the island of Grenada, one of the British colonies in the West Indies.

Although he came from a school-teaching family, he escaped to New York on the first opportunity he got. In Harlem, however, he had quite a come down from a Grenada teaching position. (He taught in a public school at the age of 16.)

## Worked As Laborer

He went to work in 1927 as a common laborer at the Swift and Co. Packing House. Continuing his education, he went to Harlem evening high school, and to City College.

The Swift job lasted three years. Then he became an elevator operator at the Hotel Martha Washington, until the depression hit. A taste of America gave him a new independence, but when everything crashed in 1932, he turned to other wide awake Negroes to find his way which turned out to be organization of the unemployed in the Workers Alliance.

But that was to conflict with another interest, the theatre. Following up his high school dramatic experience, he broke into the professional stage as a dockhand in "Stevedore" and followed up by a stretch on the WPA Federal theatre where he scored as MacDuff in the Orson Welles production of "Macbeth."

## Fought Jim Crow

But even in the theatre he was an organizer. He led a fight against railroad Jim Crow which segregated Negro and white actors in "Macbeth" while on tour to Indianapolis and Dallas, Tex. Orson Welles put a halt to that when the company refused to go on unless Jim Crow was put out of the cast.

While on WPA Collins spent five days in jail for trying to rent a bathhouse at the city white Parkway Baths in Coney Island. There were also sleepless nights in sit-down strikes protesting against the end of the WPA theatre.

It was the folding of WPA and the doubtful prospects of Broadway employment that finally resolved Collins to go back as an

elevator operator and join a big organizing drive in 1937 to unionize hotel workers.

## Becomes Union Kingpin

Out of that campaign Collins became a union kingpin, one of three Negro union officials in Local 6, with 18,000 members. Of these, 3,000 are Negroes.

In his job he is responsible for union work among more whites than Negroes. He would like to see the pattern of his own local spread on a world scale, bringing genuine democracy to all.

For this reason he is particularly angered at the refusal of the AFL International Organization to join in the World Conference of Trade Unions.

Outside of injuring labor as a whole, the AFL's stubborn stand will retard the progressive development of the half million Negroes in the AFL and Negro America generally, Collins believes.

As an AFLer he is an active member of the committee for AFL participation in a World Trade Union Federation, and also carries credentials from this group of labor leaders who represent a sizeable segment of AFL membership.

His main task, however, is making the conference colonial conscious. He will contact all colonial delegations in the hope of presenting a broad strong united front on the problem.

## Colonial Problem

He wants them to seek a special secretariat to deal solely with colonial labor in the hope of building free and unfettered union throughout Africa and the West Indies particularly. Negroes in America see labor as the hope for freedom and justice not only at home, but for their blood brothers abroad, Collins feels.

Collins was among the group of labor conference delegates on the SS Argentina who were invited by the Duke of Windsor to a party on board the vessel going to Le Havre.

The Harlem laborite reminded "His Royal Highness" that they had met many years ago when the Duke, then Prince of Wales, came on a tour to Grenada and shook hands with a young Negro.

The Duke recalled the trip, and both chatted at length on the general West Indian situation.

## South Africans, West Indians In Loud Protest

10-6-45

### Lily-White Delegate Given Committee Post By CIO Leader

By BEN BURNS

(Defender Staff Correspondent)

PARIS — Black Africans clashed head-on with American CIO boss Sidney Hillman Monday at the World Trade Union conference here.

They bitterly condemned the arrogant ruling by Hillman, acting as chairman, which resulted in the seating of a white South African from jim crow unions as Africa's only member of the all-important constitution committee. This body will frame the document setting up a permanent World Labor organization.

Hillman, using deliberate steam-roller tactics, silenced at least three attempts by Negro delegates from Africa to halt the naming of M. J. Devries, white secretary of the South Africa Trades and Labor Council, which maintains a color bar.

## Protest Devries

To protests from both Wallace Johnson of Sierra Leone and Joe Annan of the Africa Gold Coast that Devries could not represent Africa, Hillman replied with a snide remark about not knowing much about the geography of Africa. African delegates are being joined by other colonials in drawing up a petition against Hillman's arbitrary ruling.

Latest figures on the number of Negro delegates here total 14. Outstanding leaders representing huge white and Negro followings in Latin American groups are Lazaro Pena, head of the Cuban CTC with 700,000 members, and Pedro De Carvalho Braga, one of the foremost men in the United Workers movement of Brazil with 150,000.

## Soviets Approve

Proposal for a colonial department in the new federation drew support of the powerful Soviet delegation. At a press conference

Vassili Kuznetsov said he would back the suggested amendment by E. F. Small of Gambia to set up a colonial department which would probe conditions and seek freedom for subject peoples.



# Colonial Problems

## Spotlight WTU Meet

*The Pittsburgh Courier*  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 10-6-45

By P. L. PRATTIS, Courier Executive Editor

PARIS—Blast after blast of explosive oratory was exploded against British and Dutch and French imperialism at the World Trade Union Conference this week after Sir Walter Citrine, president of the British Trade Union Congress, had stirred the delegates throughout the United Nations Organization with a provocative speech that ranged all the way from disparagement of the weak trade union centers to criticism of Paris as the headquarters of the World Trade Union Federation.

Nearly every delegate throughout the week who followed Citrine's bold criticism of the proceedings attacked the British labor leader. The only significant exception was Sidney Hillman, chairman of the CIO delegation from the United States. Hillman sought to cut through the middle and suggest steps to effect a compromise between the position taken by Citrine and that taken by most of the other delegates.

### LISTS SIX POINTS

The points raised by Citrine that drew the greatest fire were the following:

- (1) That there should be a transition period of about a year in setting up the permanent world federation;
- (2) That there should be negotiation to bring into the fold of the world federation the existing International Federation of Trade Unions, and the various trade secretariats, including their staffs;
- (3) That the British Trade Union Congress would not accept the present draft constitution until affiliation of the above bodies had been agreed to;
- (4) That the new organization would so set the different national trade centers in conflict that the health of the entire organization would be endangered;
- (5) That the plea of some of the smaller nations for a reduction in the dues should be ignored because what the new organization would need would be "sterling, not slogans";
- (6) That Paris should not be chosen as the headquarters because the unfavorable rate of exchange here cuts the value of the dollar and the pound in half.

There was practical unanimity among the delegates in opposing Citrine's proposal for a transition period. Even Hillman was against that.

### MANY DELEGATES OPPOSED DELAYS

Hillman reminded the delegates that labor had sought representation at the San Francisco Conference, but had been told that it was London shining through the shop windows in Mayfair and Bond Street.

"If we fail to get organized now," declared Hillman, "we'll be put off with the same excuse when we try again to make labor's voice heard."

Lombardo Toledano, leader of the Latin-American bloc, suggested that what was needed was a period of "initiative," not a period of transition.

Most of the delegates from large and small countries took the position that labor has a huge job to do in securing the peace and promoting the welfare of workers throughout the world. They contended that the nature of the problem would brook no delay.

There was virtual agreement among the delegates that some peaceful method should be found to affiliate the international Federation and the trade secretariats with the new world body—but when the delegates reached Citrine's notions about politics and financial matters, they began to throw oratorical chairs at him.

### WEST INDIAN ATTACKS BRITISH IMPERIALISM

Chief among those who then twisted the lion's tail were John F. Rojas, chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Union Congress, and S. A. Danze, chairman of the All-India Trade Union Congress. The delegates were visibly stirred by Rojas' exciting denunciation of British Colonial policy in the West Indies. He denied that the new organization should stay out of politics, asserting that the economic welfare of the workers depended upon political pressures, particularly in the colonies.

Rojas criticized the administrative committee for giving all the executive committee representation from that part of the world to Latin America, and insisted that the West Indies should be represented on that committee. He pointed out that although he came from Trinidad, he represented nineteen scattered West Indian colonies, which were even now seeking a method of federation in a conference in Barbados.

"The history of British imperialism in the West Indies," cried Rojas, "is a history of murder, suicide, inadequate hospital facilities, wage slavery, bad housing and frustration. I listened to Sir Walter Citrine as he spread a wet blanket on the aspirations of some of the delegates to this conference. He wants to be too correct. He wants to question credentials. He wants the high fees paid by the poor centers. We do not have the money. The money which we should have to pay the fees is in London shining through the shop windows in Mayfair and Bond Street."

### WEALTH GOES TO BRITISH

"The wealth and material resources of Trinidad have been

taken to the United Kingdom. That is why Citrine can pay the fees and we can't. We don't have a chance. In our colony a white boy and a black boy may finish the same college with the same marks, but the white boy is started off on a job at \$1.30 a day and the black boy is started at forty cents. The white boy may rise to be manager of the firm; the black boy can never be more than a clerk."

Rojas lashed out again at Citrine for the latter's statement that what was needed was "sterling, not slogans." "I can remember a time," Rojas reminded, "when the British put plenty of dependence in slogans. Who rallied the English and the world but Churchill? What did he use? Slogans were what counted then, slogans to fire the spirit of the people. The life of England was saved by slogans."

### PROLONGED APPLAUSE GREET'S SPEECH

Rojas knew that he had made a daring speech. Concluding his statement, he asserted: "I have nothing to lose but my chains. We are colonial peoples whose hope for the future is in the establishment of the World Trade Union Federation. The British Trade Union Federation has never opened its arms to us. I did not come here as a tourist. I did not come here for a holiday. I could not afford it. I have come to make my contribution toward the immediate establishment of a World Trade Union Federation."

Rojas sat down to the most prolonged applause received by any delegate up to the time he spoke. When the Spanish, French and Russian translations of his speech were made, he received the same vigorous applause. But despite the vigor and significance of his statements and the reception given them by the delegates, his speech was practically ignored in the British, French and American press the next day.

### DRAWS PARALLEL ON U. S. RACE RELATIONS

On the opening day of the conference, Dange of India had said that the Indians had two goals to achieve — Freedom of India and freedom for India. This is believed to have been the cause of Citrine's criticism of political matters. After Citrine had spoken, Dange pursued that matter more vigorously.

The Indian labor leader opened up the entire subject of colonialism and subject peoples. He referred ironically to the fact that at the very time he was speaking, British, French and Japanese soldiers were shooting down the fighters for freedom in Indo-China. He wanted to know what labor proposed to do when the British, French and Dutch set about to re-establish the same old pre-war imperialistic status quo in Burma, Malaya, Java, Sumatra, and other islands of the Pacific.

Dange challenged the excuse of disunity among Indians which the British so often use for delaying the gift of freedom to the Indians. "When did disunity, if it exists, become a proper excuse for the armed subjection of a people?" Dange asked. "If the Negroes and American whites fight in the streets of New York, is that an excuse for Whitehall to send British battle-ships to New York and take over the city on the grounds that the

Americans are not united?"

### PRESS IGNORED COLONIAL SPEECHES

The British, French and American press also gave short shrift to Dange's speech, but published long articles about a momentary clash between Citrine and Louis Saillant, secretary of the conference. Saillant had begun to explain that Citrine's threat to withdraw represented a change from the position he had taken earlier in the year at Washington, when Citrine, face flushed, rose and questioned the right of the secretary to expose what took place in the earlier meeting of the administrative committee.

Hillman, acting as chairman at the time, sustained Citrine.

Saillant also challenged Citrine's exception to Paris as the headquarters. Noting that although the French franc was in a bad way, the British pound was not doing so well itself in relation to the American dollar.

### NO DISPOSITION TO DISCUSS COLONIALISM

In orientation and outline, the World Labor Conference here is almost an exact replica of the United Nations set-up. There is the same tug-of-war between the little nations and the big nations. There is a similar organization of the big nations wherein a restricted number of big nations or big group leaders are organized as presidents into the management committee of the conference.

There is the same disposition to think in terms of the western world, of fascism and nazism, but not of colonialism.

Hillman urged that the world body set up commissions to investigate conditions of labor in Germany and Japan. Dange added to Hillman's suggestion by urging that a similar commission be set up to survey the state of labor in colonies, and other subject areas.



45k-1945

# **Pullman Porters Have Ups, Downs** New Orleans, La.

(The Associated Press)  
Louisville, Ky., Jan. 29.—If your Pullman car porter seems a little groggy on your next trip, Mr. War Plant Official, don't blame it on the cup that cheers but on overwork. 1-30-45

So says A. Phil Randolph, New York, for 19 years president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who is in Louisville today for a series of meetings with members of his organization.

The porters "are handling top and bottom loads uncomplainingly and are trying to do everything possible for the war effort," said Randolph, who added that the brotherhood has bought \$50,000 worth of war bonds, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars subscribed for by individual members through pay roll deductions.

## **Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters TRAIN PORTERS WHO MET LAST WEEK IN ATLANTA**



ATLANTA, May 23.—The first Southeastern train porters conference closed a two day session here today at the Butler Street YMCA, under the auspices of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. 5-31-45

Delegates in attendance at the conference came from practically all of the Southeastern railroads, the Seaboard Air Line, Atlantic Coast Line, Chesapeake and Ohio, Central of Georgia and others.

The keynote address was made by A. Philip Randolph, international president, and other interesting talks were made by M. P. Webster, first international vice president and a member of FEPC; T. T. Patterson, eastern zone supervisor and B. F. McLaurin, international field organizer.

A thorough discussion of the rules of the agreements was carried on and plans were discussed for the revision of the existing contract, stated Mr. Randolph. 5-31-45

Delegates attending were: John Sears, Cincinnati; W. Johnson, New Orleans; Kersey Odom, Birmingham; A. L. Reese, Cincinnati; A. T. Mitchell, Mobile, Ala.; J. A. Harden, Knoxville, Tenn.; Dave Adis, Montgomery; W. B. Stalworth, Pensacola, Fla., from L. and N. RR. W. J. Redd, Cincinnati; John

Taylor, Cincinnati; C. O. Cobb, Huntington, Va., C and O RR.; L. L. McNeill, Raleigh; C. A. Williams, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Smiley Stringer, Savannah; Clement Smith, Richmond, ACL RR.; King Davis, Savannah; Ben Reynolds, Savannah; Harry Snowden, Washington B. and O. RR.; A. S. McIver, Richmond; Edward Hunter, Richmond; Frank McCray, Jacksonville, Fla.; J. H. Williams, Mobile, N. C.; C. B. Washington, Jacksonville; John Scott, Jacksonville; Ray Johnson, Monroe, N. C.; Warren Saunders, Tampa, Fla.; Walter Frison, Wildwood, Fla.; A. Watson, Tampa, SAL RR.; Ben Holsey, Albany; Henry James, Albany; Henry McGriff, Atlanta, C of G RR.; W. M. Cooper, Ft. Worth, Texas; Richard Bennett, Ft. Worth, T and P RR.

## **Atlantic Coast Line Signs Contract With Brotherhood**

N.Y. Amsterdam News  
Effective August 1st of this year, a revised agreement between the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company and its Train Porters, Mail Porters, Chair Car Attendants and Maids, has been reached, according to Ashley L. Totten, International Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. 8-4-4

Hitherto, these classes of workers had an agreement which only dealt with their working conditions and did not include wages. The Management paid its employees on a trip basis only, and interpreted this to mean payment from the time the train leaves until it returns. If the trip took two days instead of scheduled time, no overtime would be considered, states Totten.

**The Agreement**  
Due to the ability of Thomas Patterson, the Eastern Zone Supervisor and who is one of the Brotherhood's ace negotiators, a 240-hour work month was agreed upon at the rate of 52 cents per hour for Train Porters, 62.15 cents per hour for Chair Car Attendants and Mail Porters, and 46 cents per hour for Maids. Under this agreement, overtime will also be paid, making the wages substantially greater than the previous trip basis and with more regularity, avers Totten.

The agreement which was approved by the National Railway Labor Panel, July 10, goes into effect on August 1st.

N.Y.  
Thomas Patterson, Eastern Zone Supervisor, signed for Mr. A. Philip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and W. S. Baker signed for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, with headquarters in Wilmington, North Carolina.



AUG 25 1945

## C. I. O. in Cotton Mills

Were the C. I. O. and its political action party to gain ascendancy in congress, it would perpetuate the FEPC. Corporations would be forbidden to practice discrimination as to races in employment. Negroes would be admitted as workers along with white women and men in Southern cotton mills and as dwellers in the mill villages.

Racial segregation, and separation, made possible the establishment of the textile industry in South Carolina. Landless and poor white people fled from the farms to the mills to escape competition and association with negroes.

Were government to force the companies to employ negroes, the supply of labor for the mills in the South would be immensely enlarged. Negroes can spin and weave. That has been demonstrated time and again.

Looking coldly at the facts, adoption and enforcement of the FEPC by the federal government might and probably would be to the financial profit of the capitalists owning the mills. The larger the supply of labor, the sharper would be the competition for work and wages, the easier would be the solution of the tasks and problems of the mill management, the presidents and the treasurers.

Jobs for white workers would decrease in ratio to the jobs given colored people.

The textile executives do not wish this condition to arise. They are white men. Their shareholders are white people. They are sympathetic with their white employees. There is not the slightest possibility that the prospect of bigger dividends and salaries would tempt cotton mill presidents to exert efforts and influence for the passage of the FEPC measure by the congress, and they do not observe President Truman's approval of it with enthusiasm or favor.

Textile executives generally, almost without exception, have been staunch friends of their operatives and have helped them in every way that they could.

It is certain that Southern mill executives would not have negroes admitted to the spindles and looms, would not have mixed

racial villages, and, regardless of dividends and profits, would oppose with all their resources the breakdown of racial separation in their plants by an FEPC law.

The foregoing are facts too plain for denial or dispute, and the other singular fact is that, in some of the mill villages of South Carolina, are C. I. O. unions.

The junior senator of South Carolina, O. D. Johnston, who was for a time, in his youth, a mill worker, opposes the FEPC. In his successful contest for senator in the primary he received assistance from the C. I. O. and expressed gratitude for it.

The C. I. O. and its party associates are the main force behind the movement for the passage of a federal C. I. O. law, a law that would open the doors of Southern cotton mills to colored people.

## Problem Of Negro In Reconversion Is Studied By CIO

### Committee Sees Negro As Integral Part Of Industry

8-24-45

The aftermath of the V-J Day holiday led to the creation of the Committee on Negro Problems in reconversion, at the August 17th meeting of Local 416, UER&MWA-CIO. When the organization voted to continue itself after the lay-off of the members of Eastern Aircraft the problems of the Negro members received the committee's attention.

Henry Booth, Executive Board member and leader of Local 416 for the last two and one half years, outlined the purposes of the committee as follows:

"Labor, and Local 416 of the U. E. in particular, see in the closing of Eastern Aircraft Bloomfield and Ampere plants a threat to the post war security of the negro

C10

## CIO SAYS GROUP CHEAPENS LABOR

*The Birmingham Age Herald*  
Birmingham, Alabama.

MOBILE, Ala., Sept. 14—(AP)—A Mobile CIO official said today the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations was creating a "cheap labor market" by forcing job-changing workers in this area to low-paid jobs.

Arthur N. Angelo, administrative director of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, made the assertion in a letter to Frank Broadway, department director.

"We have had numerous cases reported to us where workers have been disqualified for unemployment compensation benefits because they refused to take a low-paid job. These jobs were held by your department to be 'suitable' employment."

Angelo cited a case in which he said a Negro woman who had never worked for less than 50 cents an hour was disqualified for further unemployment benefits, after receiving compensation for five weeks, because she refused to accept a job at 30 cents an hour.

Angelo said the union had instructed the woman to appeal the department's ruling and that the union "intends to back her up."

"When your department forces workers to take lower paid jobs by denying them compensation when they refuse low-paid employment, you are playing the employers' game by helping bring about a cheap labor market," he declared.

The CIO official said Alabama had a \$67,000,000 surplus in its unemployment compensation fund and expressed belief "this should be put into circulation.

people. The full employment of the war years saw the emergence of the Negro as an integral part of industry, working with his fellow workers to achieve the greatest production job in world history. The negro is determined to keep the place he has won for himself in industry. A place which can be one by uniting with his white brothers in the labor movement to fight for "Jobs for All"—60,000,000 jobs in an all out peace production economy.

"The closing of war plants with no reconversion plans in view as expendable "war babies" will lead only to unemployment and the strife engendered by it. Labor is determined that this war's end will not see a repetition of the last one."

The committee of 15 members have been conferring with Negro and white leaders in this area and will announce their plans as they mature.

## CIO Charges Edison Company with Bias

*The Afro American*  
Baltimore, Maryland.  
NEW YORK—Pointing out that less than one per cent of its 25,000 employees are colored, and less than one-half of one per cent are Jews, Joseph Fisher, president of the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees (CIO), charged the company last week with racial and religious discrimination.

### HOWARD GOES CIO

*The Atlanta Daily World*  
WASHINGTON — Non-teaching employees of Howard University voted 203 to 0 today to be represented by Local 10, United Federal Workers of America, CIO, as their collective bargaining agent in all negotiations with the University. The election, which was conducted by the NLRB, climaxed a long fight for union recognition at Howard University. Atlanta Ga.





**Good Fellows Get Together:** A shot of the CIO Fur Workers Veterans who swarmed into the Hotel McAlpin Thursday night for a party given in their honor by the union.  
—Daily Worker Photo

## CIO Fur Vets Take Up Fight To Bring Their Buddies Home

By BETH MCHENRY

The CIO Fur Workers threw a party for their 1,100 returned veterans the other night at the Hotel McAlpin and all the boys came.

It was a good party. The veterans from the Fur Workers Union are glad their union didn't lay down on the job while they were away. They're glad they've got jobs to return to and that their wages have increased during their years of service.

There were plenty of old friends who met there for the first time since the war began. They reached across the tables, pumping one another's hands, calling out, hey fella, hi Joe. Eleven hundred of the nation's best, the young men who fought the war and won it and now have come home.

### A GRIM NOTE

Around the tables they sat, listening to their officers welcome them home. They sat mixed, like men fight and die in war, Negro and white, Protestant and Catholic and Jew. These guys will stay mixed. It was a good party, but there

was a grim note. These CIO veterans knew the score and they're sore about what's going on at home and abroad. They're sore about the guys who haven't had the luck to get home yet and they're sore at the government for using American

ships to haul war materials and foreign troops to Asia when this nation's interest lies in bringing our own troops home. They talked over how they could express what was in their minds and they decided to send a letter to the Army publications, *Yank* and *Stars and Stripes*. The letter asked if "we sweated out the Jerry 88's, the Jap mortars, the Jungle Route and malaria so that the GIs could wait for a boat while these boats were being used for such purposes?"

They think it's high time the truth got through to the guys across, so they wrote their buddies via *Yank* and *Stars and Stripes*: "You've been told that strikes hold up shipping. . . . That's baloney. The real reason for the slow-down in bringing the soldiers back is not the fault of labor but the fault of government policy and shipowners' greed. Ships that should be used to transport our troops home are being used to bring our marines and Chinese troops into territory that is held by the Communist Fourth and Eighth Route Armies."

And while these CIO fur vets had a good time at the party arranged for them by their union and they accepted the gifts presented them with warm smiles, they responded in a hurry when action was suggested in the form of a proposal to join the CIO's Times Square demonstration demanding the swift return of all American servicemen from overseas.

They piled out of the hall in a hurry, and one was saying to another, getting home isn't such a restful business, but it's our fight and we'll win it.

They piled out of the hall in a hurry, and one was saying to another, getting home isn't such a restful business, but it's our fight and we'll win it.

They piled out of the hall in a hurry, and one was saying to another, getting home isn't such a restful business, but it's our fight and we'll win it.



# 600 Workers Resent Union Heads Bias; No Upgrading Prog.

*Louisiana Weekly New Orleans, La. 8-18-45*

*8-18-45*  
A walkout of some 600 Negro laborers was averted Monday at Todd-Johnson Shipyard when Mike Shapiro, international representative and "trouble shooter" of IUMSWA, CIO, held a conference Monday in the offices of the local NAACP with a committee of the dissatisfied workers, members of the press and secretaries of the Urban League and the NAACP to map out a program to get the injustices and unfair practices the workers complain of adjusted; also a program of upgrading.

Because of Local 29 IUMSWA's seeming indifference to get Negroes in the union upgraded was decidedly not in line with national CIO policy, of which the IUMSWA is an affiliate, considerable surprise has been expressed in the community about the capability of the top officials in control of the above mentioned CIO union.

The threatened strike is an aftermath of the Todd-Johnson Shipyard hiring an out-of-town Negro boilermaker through USES (which incidently had never been done before) which caused the white members of the union to strike in defiance to the company's hiring a Negro skilled worker. The terms by which the strike was settled have never been made public and is a source of dissatisfaction among the Negro workers. Other specific points of grievance among the workers were: (1) discrimination in all levels of work; (2) no program of upgrading despite the fact they are doing skilled work at laborers' wages, and (3) suspicion of collusion between top union officials and company officials inasmuch as the Negro workers are being exploited ruthlessly by doing skilled work at laborers' wages, with neither the union or the company doing anything about upgrading, thereby saving the company much money.

Responsible for the appearance of Mr. Shapiro were several telegrams sent by local newspaper representatives, CIO locals, the NAACP and the Urban League to Philip Murray, president of the CIO, and other top CIO officials. Copy of the telegram sent by Daniel Byrd, executive secretary of NAACP, to Philip Murray, president of CIO, was as follows:

"Recent action of executive staff IUMSWA, Local 29, in walkout at Todd-Johnson damaging to CIO. Public demanding immediate, firm, disciplinary action against Chriss, Leary and Lohman. Facts of case available at Washington Bureau, NAACP. Catastrophe can only be prevented by immediate action. Strike is violation of CIO national policy. Discrimination in union is in this case."

In a letter to the CIO, the regional director of IUMSWA, had asked four pertinent questions: (1) What action has been taken against those who walked out on strike at Todd-Johnson when a Negro was hired as skilled worker? (2) What is the policy of Local 29 in regard to the upgrading of Negroes and the hiring of Negroes in their highest skilled capacities?

(3) How can a CIO union, pledged to non-discrimination, countenance the fact that Negroes are paid a substantially lower hourly rate than that of their white brothers for the same work? (4) What was the agreement surrounding the settlement of the strike? We have been reliably informed that no Negroes were called in the union hall at the meeting when the strike was settled.

Beside sending telegrams to Philip Murray, CIO president, and Geo. L. P. Weaver, director of the CIO Anti-Discrimination Committee, apprising them of the conditions concerning the averted walkout, R. J. Sullivan, agent of NMU

local and CIO affiliate, wired Congressman Hugh DeLoach, House Naval Affairs Committee, the following:

"Urge you institute immediate investigation of Todd-Johnson's Drydocks, Algiers, La., refusal to abide by President's FEPC regulation regarding employment and upgrading of Negroes. This yard now doing repair and reconversion work for WSA and Navy ships. Through efforts of local NAACP committee, of which several CIO union members were a part, have averted threatened walkout of some 600 Negro laborers who are being discriminated against regarding failure to upgrade. We request your immediate assistance in this matter."



# Woman Organizer Finds Job Gives Her the Best Education

By BETH McHENRY

Mercedes Reid, who's the newest young woman organizer on the staff of Local 1225, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, likes her job better than anything she's ever done before. She once wanted to go on to college and become a lawyer but she has decided union organization offers an even better education.

"I guess there's no better feeling than when you've reached the contract signing stage after organizing a shop," she told us in an interview the other day. "A lawyer winning a case probably feels pretty good, too, only his victory doesn't necessarily do anybody any real good. When you're organizing a union, the results are so clearly for the people."

Mercedes Reid, who lives in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and is active in community work there, hails originally from Norfolk, Va. She is an exceptionally pretty young woman, soft-spoken and poised, and you can picture her going through difficult times without losing her calm or becoming ruffled. She made the shift from professional to union interests gradually, after she had entered a plant to do her part for the war. Before that she had started night classes at St. John's School of Commerce, studying Law and Accounting.

Asked if she expected to return to her studies, she shook her head and said quietly, "No, I've made my choice. This is better for me."

Four months ago she was put on the organizing staff of Local 1225, after doing a most effective job as secretary of the Bommer-Spring shop in Brooklyn, where she worked as a shipper. Now she's working on the organizing committee for the Murray Switch shop, where the union's campaign has entered the contract negotiation stage.

Miss Reid is particularly interested in this shop, where half the workers are Negroes and 40 percent are women. Being both herself, she finds it satisfying to help awaken all workers to the importance of the problems of Negroes and women in industry. She thinks that for the most part the workers in Murray Switch have reached the point of understanding that protection of



MERCEDES REID

Negro workers and women workers is essential to the job security of all workers.

Right now she and her committee are busy getting their first shop paper and she thinks they can be proud of it. "We worked hard on it," she said.

"The response to the union in this plant is good," she told us. "But frankly I think the response to unions in any place should be good if problems are faced frankly and the program fits the needs of the particular workers involved. In our plants the workers are terribly worried about reconversion and what's going to happen to them after the war. For that matter," she added, "a good many employers too are willing to listen to the union on this question and many of them welcome its program."

## Florida's Anti-Labor Drive

IN THE citrus-packing plant, under the heavy, sweet smell of rotting orange skins, the "Brother" Shannon leaflet passes from hand to hand. Side view, front view and number—the police picture of a burly Negro with thick lips and receding forehead tops a story implying that a vote for the union is a vote for black equality.

This is the final exhibit in the trial-run anti-CIO campaign backed by the \$156-million citrus industry of Florida. Used in the Hills Brothers' company plant at Bartow, to block the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers' Union, it will appear again wherever a similar organization drive is attempted. In Florida the lords of Vitamin C are going to fight their new labor pains according to a formula.

"Can't you count?" shouted the CIO representatives in answer to the pamphlet's appeal to race prejudice. "Can't you see you whites outnumber the Negroes three to one? This is no set-up for black supremacy!"

But at this point nobody is interested in counting. This is the day of the election, when 400 workers are going to mark the NLRB ballot for or against the union. This is the day when management will help to settle things by one more play in the game. Two hours before the voting the Negro employees will be sent home to their segregated neighborhood and will find it difficult to get out again. Certain white men around the district will look as if they might be on patrol, and for a purpose.

The number of white workers who will vote no for "Brother" Shannon will be enough to lose the election. And the industry will have the last peg it needs to tighten the structure of its strategy.

Now the formula is complete, and not quite what you'd expect either. Future attempts to unionize any given plant will not be countered crudely, by barring the gates to organizers. No, the organizers will be admitted. They had first to clear the hurdle of getting a business agent's license from the state of Florida. They will be allowed to demand an election.

Then the defense will open according to plan. "Loyal employees! You are being told what to do by fellows from outside the state." (Most organizers do come from outside Florida.) "Go on, listen to them.

We won't object. But you aren't the first they've tried their stuff on. No, they worked at Bartow more than three months. And what happened? The sensible white men at Hills Brothers turned them down!"

After this introduction the formula divides into three easily assembled parts. Part one, the old business, is typical of anti-union techniques everywhere: further appeals to loyalty, to the right of the individual to run his own affairs; threats to close the factory and the actual dismantling of one or two machines paper advertisements by businessmen and citizens.

Part two, race prejudice, is typical of the South. To frighten the Negroes, the white-trash angle is brought in, and references to the Klan. To frighten the whites,

the "share-the-same-washroom" bogey is trotted out. There is no need to elaborate on these appeals to race hatred, except to say that here, at least, Red-baiting is not part of the picture. Black equality is overwhelmingly the more powerful weapon.

Part three consists of warnings made possible by specialized conditions in Florida itself. "Don't stir up trouble where you have to work," refers to the difficulty of getting out of the state, to the high emigration fees demanded of labor recruiters. "Don't deal with outsiders," means more in Florida than elsewhere, for this tourist-ridden peninsula is extremely

jealous of the rights of citizens to control local affairs. This is the day of the election, when 400 workers are run the courthouses and collect the tax money. "Forgoing to mark the NLRB ballot for or against the union. This is the day when management will help to settle things by one more play in the game. Two hours before the voting the Negro employees will be sent home to their segregated neighborhood and will find it difficult to get out again. Certain white men around the district will look as if they might be on patrol, and for a purpose.

So what does the budding labor movement do now? Continue to fight the formula plant by plant, knowing in advance that each plant will be supported by all the others?

The question is too young to have found an answer. The groves, the canneries, are at the end of their season. But the most hopeful conclusion is this—that although plant-by-plant organization is impractical, it is not too late to do the job by states.

The citrus industry in the United States is not yet unified. Florida is competing with Texas, with California, and cheers happily over crop losses in both those areas. The task of unionization is therefore not strength, with the PAC and the coöperation of other liberal and race-tolerance organizations, we might soon perceive a new fragrance in the land of flowers.

PEGGY FLINT



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So what does the budding labor movement do now? Continue to fight the formula plant by plant, knowing in advance that each plant will be supported by all the others?

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PEGGY FLINT



# Pay Tribute to Negro Packard Local Leader

*The Worker*  
DETROIT.—A banquet in honor of Conley J. Peoples, first Negro vice-president of CIO United Auto Workers' Packard Local 190, given by the Inter-racial Unity Banquet Committee of the local at the Book-Cadillac Hotel, becomes a vivid symbol of the achievements of this people's war of liberation.

It is best described by the Inter-racial Committee's pledge, which says in part: "We pledge to do all in our power to destroy ruthlessly all race-baiting and religious-baiting and to weld the workers of Packard Motor Car Co. into a unity which will withstand all fascist-minded groups. We pledge to our brothers and sisters in the armed services, to our Commander-in-Chief and to the people of our nation that we wholeheartedly reaffirm our support to the no-strike pledge until total victory is ours. We pledge these things because without them there can be no unity."

The banquet guests heard Miss Mattie Garner, a young Negro girl who had just finished her shift at the auto plant, become the collective voice of her people by reaffirming the unshaken adherence of Packard Local 190 to the no-strike pledge.

She gave life and flesh to that part of the committee's pledge, which declares: "All of our hopes are at stake, our aspirations for everlasting peace and security, for a post-war period of jobs and prosperity, for a world which recognizes no difference of race and color and where discrimination and segregation will be treated as a reversion to savagery and barbarism. We make this pledge to those who have already died, that the world will remain free. We make this pledge to those who are yet to die. We will keep our pledge."

John K. McDaniel, plant committeeman, praised Mr. Peoples for the way he had been discharging his duties in the executive board on a non-factional basis.

Shelton Tappes, recording secretary of UAW Ford Local 600, declared that the racial equality now prevailing at Packard is an achievement of which any local could be more than proud.

## Union Against Racial Bias

ST. LOUIS. (ANP) — Still firm in their contention that nothing should bar Negroes from the production line, officers of locals of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, representing 25,000 St. Louis workers, in a declaration Saturday pledged themselves to "cooperate with all groups and nations fighting toward destruction of our country's enemies."

Endorsing the national policy of the union, local officers in the declaration stated:

"We pledge ourselves to a relentless fight against the disrupters of our nation's unity and we pledge ourselves to contribute to that unity by the organization of the workers of our industry and by our support of a national program to mobilize the home front for victory."

Trouble between union heads and workers began a week ago when local union officials proposed filling some of the 6,400 vacancies at the St. Louis Ordnance plant with Negro employees. When white workers refused to concede to the plan Otto Maschoff, local 25 president and Betty Raab, secretary-treasurer, resigned their posts.

The following representatives attached signatures to the recent declarations: William Sentner, general vice president; Robert B. Logsdon, international representative and officers of locals 102, 1104, 1108, 810 and 825.

## Poll Shows Colored Prefer CIO to AFL

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Questioned in the June Negro Digest poll, a cross-section of colored laborers cast their overwhelming vote for the CIO on the query, "Which Union Is Fairer to Colored, AFL or CIO?"

The biggest argument revolved around the issue of racial discrimination. It was pointed out again and again that the national CIO has made long strides forward attempting to wipe out racial prejudice not only within its own ranks, but also in American life generally.

## Asks War Labor Board To Act On Biased Contract

# CIO Union Attacks Wage Differential

Marks First Time Smith-Connally Act Has Been Used Against Race Discrimination

*Carrier — Pittsburgh, Pa.*

WASHINGTON (ANP)—The United Steelworkers of America (CIO) has filed a petition with the National War Labor Board asking elimination from the union's contract with the Hughes Tool Company of provisions which discriminate against Negro workers. The action was taken under the provisions of the war labor disputes act, but, better known as the Smith-Connally act, and is the first instance wherein the law, often scored as a blow at organized labor, has been used against discrimination.

The Hughes Tool Company is currently being operated by the Army which took over the plant last October following refusal of the company to comply with a National Labor Relations Board ruling and consequently the War Department is expected to influence NWLB's decision on the petition.

No official statement on the case was forthcoming from the War Department although a spokesman indicated that the main concern is to avoid any interruption of production. If continuance of production can be guaranteed, he hinted, there will probably be no opposition to granting the petition.

The specific provisions protested by the union establish wage differences for white and Negro workers and, according to the petition "the highest limit of the colored (pay) range is less than the lowest limit of the white (pay) range."

Also in the picture is the FEPC, a central office spokesman for the agency here admitting that investigation of complaints against the company had been conducted. The outcome of these investigations was not disclosed.

## Labor Forum

*N.Y. Amsterdam News*

THE CIO IS MAKING A MISTAKE BY SENDING AN ALL-WHITE DELEGATION TO THE WORLD LABOR CONFERENCE which convenes in London early next month. The mistake is all the more serious precisely because the CIO is so widely recognized as having achieved a degree of democracy far beyond that of any other American institution, due to its vigorous anti-discrimination and anti-segregation policy. Many now rightly expect the CIO to set the pace for democratic action not only in labor organization, but in the country as a whole. This good esteem in which the CIO is held by liberal Americans of all races and creeds has been well-earned; for the record of the CIO on the issue of equal opportunity and equal rights has been generally progressive and consistently better than any other significant labor, civic or religious institution. This good record of the CIO, in contrast to the generally bad record of the AFL, is not a matter of special virtue on the part of the CIO leaders but one of realistic policy for the benefit of the millions of CIO members.

At a time when many people are discussing the question: Should provisions be made for an American Negro delegate to the peace table?—it does seem a little odd for the most progressive labor organization to pick an all-white delegation to represent it at the most important conference of labor in our time, perhaps.

No doubt, the job of choosing its delegates was a delicate and difficult job for the national leadership of the CIO. The final decision to send only the national officers and vice-presidents was undoubtedly a compromise. There are no Negro officers or vice-presidents, so that ended the matter so far as official action is concerned. Many white and some Negro CIO officials feel that to raise the question of representation of Negroes on the delegation would be to demand "special privilege", which they argue would be "discrimination in reverse". Such people add, if Negroes demand representation, the other groups will do so also. The result would be chaos, they conclude.

Many organizations with good intentions find themselves in this dilemma at some time or another. But good intentions are not enough. Nor will mechanical application of the principle of treating everybody alike, with no special favors to any group, prevent discrimination. The fact is that due to this mistake in the past Negroes have been excluded from developing into top leadership positions and thus prevented from developing into top leadership positions. Statesmanship requires that a way be found to deal practically with this kind of problem which will continue to rise until discrimination is wiped out and the lag caused by discrimination in the past is brought up to date.



Mr. Weston

The AFL can take no comfort from this mistake on the part of the CIO; for the AFL follows as a policy (with few exceptions) what is here not a policy but a by-product of our civilization. Approximately 12% of the six million CIO members are Negroes. It is unlikely, if there had been no discrimination in employment and in other phases of their lives, that there would not at least, possibly more, Negro eligible to be a member of the CIO delegation to the London conference. It is worthy of note in this connection that Hubert N. Critchlow, well-known labor leader of British Guiana is now on his way to the London parley and that Mr. E. E. Esau, president of the Nigerian Teachers Union attended the I. L. O. conference in Philadelphia last year. Surely, the Negro trade unionist is not to be left behind his colonial brothers!

—By M. MORAN WESTON



# Singer Machine Company Signs Union Contract

ELIZABETH, N. J. — For the first time in its 72-year history, the Singer Sewing Machine Company here has signed a union contract, bringing with it a new era in inter-racial relationships in this city.

Fraternalization between the relatively large colored population and the white workers here was at a low level and jim crow conditions were bad until the CIO stepped in. The Singer agreement was reached with the CIO United Electrical with the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, which is bargaining agent for a unit of 6000.

Singer had long ago employed colored workers, all in the foundry, where the toughest, dirtiest work was performed. When the Union representative entered the plant, in February, 1943, he found the foundry workers most responsive to unionization, chiefly because they were, definitely jimcrowed on the job, restricted exclusively to heavy work at lower pay than other workers and because they knew the union policy of fighting discrimination.

In local elections that followed the adoption of the CIO in December, 1943, three colored workers, all from the foundry, were elected to the executive board. Louis Devine is vice president, Eugene Gaddy is recording secretary and Robert Fontleroy is a board member. A sergeant-at-arms and several stewards, at least one of them a woman are also colored.

## Negro Workers Favor CIO

CHICAGO, Illinois.—Most Negro workers favor the CIO over the AFL. Questioned in the June Negro Digest Poll, a cross-section of Negro workers cast their overwhelming vote for the CIO on the query "Which Union Is Fairer to the Negro, AFL or CIO?"

The majority vote for the CIO was recorded despite the fact that the AFL claims a larger membership than the CIO. Here are the results of the Negro Digest Poll on labor preferences:

North .....	14	79	7
West .....	11	82	7
South .....	19	67	14

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.  
3-3-45.

## NLRB Outlaws Segregated Tobacco Local

### Declares Richmond Auxiliary Creature Of Discrimination

RICHMOND, Va.--Another decision of far-reaching import striking at the jim-crow union, sometimes more respectfully referred to as the auxiliary union, was delivered Monday when the National Labor Relations Board held that Richmond Local No. 219, Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL, must admit as members Negro employees of Larus and Brothers, Inc.

The board, holding that the colored employees were eligible for membership in the local, recommended cancellation of the charter of Local 219-B, the auxiliary formed last year as a separate organization for the Negro workers.

### INITIATED BY CIO

This blow upon the segregated unions, apparently was not spearheaded by the affected auxiliary itself, but came as flank attack on the AFL by the powerful CIO, which demanded that the board's certification of Local 219 as the collective bargaining agent for the tobacco workers be rescinded on the grounds that the organization did not provide for equal representation of all employees irrespective of race or color.

The CIO, it appears from the report of NLRB examiner, Frank Bloom, initiated the action following an election at the plant on March 14 last, when by a vote of 314 AFL to 170 CIO the workers voted for AFL representation.

Immediately after the election, the examiner found, "A move was initiated to set up a

segregated local within the structure of the international union, segregating for collective bargaining purposes the white and colored employees in the unit."

### CITES VIOLATIONS

Mr. Bloom held "that by establishing a separate local for colored employees, the international and the AFL have:

1. Violated the purpose and intent of the board in its discrimination of the unit.
2. Engaged in discriminatory segregation . . . and
3. Have violated rights guaranteed by the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

The board allowed Local 219 fifteen days to comply with the recommendations, or suffer revocation of its certification as the collective bargaining agent for Larus Brothers employees.

### STARTED BY NEGRO

The segregated union was mainly the outgrowth of activities of George Benjamin, the examiner found, a Negro vice president of the international, who it is charged initiated the move to establish the auxiliary. Mr. Bloom, in his report, stated that Benjamin testified that he had advised Negro workers "that it would be better from them to be in a union to themselves; that it would develop leadership."

The principal issues to be determined by the board were whether the local with which the company had entered into a collective bargaining agreement was the one certified by the board, and whether such organization provided equal representation of all employees irrespective of race or color.

### EXAMINER'S CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions announced by Examiner Bloom were:

1. That the organization with which the company has entered into a contract is not the organization certified by the board.
2. That Local 219, the only organization under contract with the company, does not provide for equal representation of all employees of the unit.
3. That the current agreement does not confer equal rights and privileges to all employees within the unit.
4. That by establishing a separate local for Negro employees the union engaged in discriminatory segregation, "running counter not only to the board's frequently enunciated policy but also to the national policy expressed by the President."

### OTHER MAJOR DECISIONS

The decision of the NLRB constitutes the third major judicial or quasi-judicial opinion handed down within recent months virtually outlawing the jim crow locals. Chief

among these was the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the Tunstall-Steele case.

This was preceded by a ruling of the Supreme Court of the State of California holding the auxiliary to be invalid. During the summer, a Federal judge in Rhode Island had delivered a similar opinion.

# Addes Calls Race Bias Danger to Auto Union

By HARRY FAINARU *Daily Worker N. Y.*

DETROIT, Aug. 10.—CIO auto workers must eliminate race-baiting and anti-Semitism within their own ranks, George F. Addes, international secretary-treasurer of the United Auto Worker, told the Na-

seniority. tional UAW-CIO Advisory Conference on Discrimination.

Addes said that the most serious problem facing the unions today is of legislation for a permanent the "problem of growing intolerance FEPC, full employment, labor support of state legislation against discrimination, and the establishment of a city-wide race relations committee.

Recent local union elections brought forth a "rash of race-baiting and anti-Semitism," Addes stated. He pointed out that some locals in the Southeast still persist in segregated union meetings and that some UAW locals in the North and Midwest still consider it proper to spend local union funds on activities from which some members, because of race, color or creed are excluded. He also pointed out that in several plants throughout the country, seniority rights of women and Negroes are being violated "with the tacit approval of some of our local union officials."

President R. J. Thomas, speaking at another session of the conference, called upon all the members to contribute to a better understanding among races. "The man who takes no position on discrimination is valueless," he said.

"As long as I am president of this union," Thomas added, "there will be no class A and B membership."

### ANTI-LABOR

The UAW leader added that discrimination against these groups "is most prevalent among those who would also discriminate against labor were they not restrained by the Wagner Act." He declared all this "must be stopped now."

The conference, which was attended by representatives of the 18 UAW regions, bargaining committees and educational workers, recommended to the executive board that discrimination against women be handled through the Fair Practices Committee of the UAW-CIO. It was also recommended that a woman assistant director for the FEPC activities and a woman investigator be approved by the executive board.

The conference went on record for plant-wide seniority, which it stated would afford less opportunity for discrimination than departmental



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Pittsburgh Courier 3-3-45

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FEPC IN PICTURE 3-3-45

No official statement on the case was forthcoming from the War Department although a spokesman indicated that the main concern is to avoid any interruption of production. If continuance of production can be guaranteed, he hinted, there will probably be no opposition to granting the petition.

The specific provisions protested by the union establish wage differences for white and Negro workers and, according to the petition "the highest limit of the colored (pay) range is less than the lowest limit of the white (pay) range."

Also in the picture is the FEPC, a central office spokesman for the agency here admitting that investigation of complaints against the company had been conducted. The outcome of these investigations was not disclosed.

CIO Local Suspended For Discrimination

STOCKTON, Cal.—The Stockton unit of local 6, International Longshoremen's Union, CIO, was suspended and placed under special administration of the local's chief officers last week for refusing to abandon its stand against working with Japanese-Americans.

In addressing a unit meeting, ILWU president Hary Bridges said: "Either you are in favor of discrimination, or not in favor of it. If you are in favor of it, you have no place in our union. We will not back away from this fight."

## Auto Union Cracks

Chicago Defender 7-6

## Down On Local Bias

1-20-45

ANDERSON, Ind.—In the first union case of its kind, CIO United Auto Workers union leaders this week moved to crack down on job discrimination against Negro members in Local 662 at Delco Remy, a General Motors affiliate here. Secret hearings on charges that the local condoned the company's jim crow practices in the hiring and working of its Negro members in the superior court, then back were conducted this week by the state supreme court and up to the U. S. Supreme court.

Addes, as chairman of the recently appointed union Fair Employment Practice committee, also heard complaints that Negro members were excluded from a union dance held here several months ago.

Testimony at the hearing was given by J. Herbert Camerson, I.B.P.O.E.W. state director of civil liberties, who cited innumerable cases of discrimination at Delco Remy; and by representatives of the Anderson N.A.A.C.P. and the Urban League.

Amos Jackson was elected by the Negro members of the UAW-CIO local to head a committee to fight the job discrimination. Other committee members are Roosevelt Carter, Robert Rudd, Roscoe Wray, Thomas Vaughn, Raymond Mitchem, Herschel Patterson, James Cochrane Sr., Adolph Abrams and John Givens.

Union Defies Anti-Bias Ruling SAN FRANCISCO. (ANP)—The Jimcrow Boilermakers union, through its attorney, Charles Janigan, defiantly announced last week that it would fight the recent California Supreme court's ruling that it must either give up the closed shop or admit Negroes.

Janigan, who represents the Boilermakers at the Marin shipyards, said he was preparing to ask for a rehearing by the state court and if turned down on that, he intends to fight the decision

CIO Hits OPA "Negro" Book

WASHINGTON (ANP)—The CIO has registered firm objection to the preparation of a special pamphlet for Negroes by the Office of Price Administration. The objections, first voiced by the CIO Committee on Discrimination, points out that there is no difference between OPA regulations and ceiling prices in Negro and white communities.

## CIO Seamen Walk Out On Jim-Crow Shipyard Rally

Chicago Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE (Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala.—In protest against a jim-crow reviewing arrangement at a ship launching on Maritime Day, a militant CIO National Maritime Union port agent refused to participate in the ceremony and marched his 150 white and Negro seamen from the shipyard back to the union hall.

Clyde Ganaway, head of the National Maritime Union's office here, hurled charges of racial discrimination at officials of the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding

company, after Negro seamen are said to have been refused admittance to the reviewing stand on last Tuesday.

Vice Adm. Emory S. Land, chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission, and several high naval officers were special guests at the launching, which was a part of a city-wide memorial to the valor of merchant seamen in the present war. The admiral was in Mobile for the Maritime Day celebration.

'No Negroes Allowed'

Ganaway told the Defender that invitations for the launching had been issued to him for the seamen, and called for space in the reviewing stand. He said that he passed them on to the seamen indiscriminately, regardless of race, color, or creed, because "all of them were doing their part to help win the war."

The NMU port agent said that when his group of seamen reached the launching yard they learned that one Negro seaman who had arrived earlier had been denied access to the stands.

Ganaway stated that as the seamen approached the reviewing stand, G. F. Floyd, assistant general manager of shipbuilding at the yard, objected to the presence of Negroes in the group to occupy the reviewing stand. Floyd was quoted as having said that "as far as Negro people are concerned they will not be allowed on the platform. The policy of the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding company is not to admit Negroes to the reviewing stand."

The NMU agent vigorously protested the action and asserted that "if the seamen are good enough to sail together sleep together, and fight together, they are surely good enough to stand together on your reviewing platform."

The shipyard official said that he offered to lead the men to a vantage point from which they could witness the ceremony. How-

ever, the seamen flatly turned down the offer and marched back to the union hall because of the principle involved in their being denied the right to occupy the reviewing stand.



# CIO Head Opposes Seniority Revision

1-27-45  
By PHILIP MURRAY  
(Fifth of a Series)

At its recent seventh constitutional convention, the Congress of Industrial Organizations carefully considered the dangers to the nation if we are forced to face widespread unemployment at the end of hostilities. The CIO did more than consider the dangers of reconversion; it offered the nation its thinking and recommendations on this subject in the form of a plan entitled CIO Re-Employment Plan.

This Re-Employment Plan defines the deflationary gap, examines the dangers therein to the nation's security and to democracy, and sets forth seven points enunciating how the deflationary gap can be filled and its dangers obviated. An illustrated booklet on this subject will follow soon for general circulation and consideration.

The CIO Re-Employment Plan is mainly a program for industrial production and employment. It is concerned first of all with the buying power of the workers in the basic industries, because the lack of that buying power is the main seal of our economic ills. This is the field in which organized labor has a peculiar responsibility and a special obligation to speak out, and not only for the CIO members!

Throughout the program the CIO calls insistently for the protection and welfare of all the people. We are deeply interested in the security and prosperity of every section of the nation. We want real prosperity for the farmers. We are concerned with the problems of independent business men and professional people. We are vitally interested in the welfare of returning veterans. We champion the cause of all racial and national minorities.

The same is true of the enlarged group of women who from necessity or choice will be in the labor market when the war is won. Women must not only have democratic employment opportunities; they must receive equal pay for equal work.

The Negro worker has given his efforts to production for victory. His employment also must be without discrimination, in an expanding economy to which all can contribute their best efforts and from which all can obtain an adequate living.

Management, by its right to determine the qualifications for hiring, has over the years created a highly discriminatory pattern in American industry, which has retarded the utilization of Negro and women workers in large numbers.

Some segments of labor have aided it longer than John Doe. Thus by the freezing of this pattern. Consequently, because of the late entrance of these two groups of workers into American industry, they have an added stake in full employment.

There has been increasing discussion of late revolving around the possibility of relaxing union seniority agreements, in order to obviate wholesale layoffs of Negro and women workers in American industry in the event we fail to achieve sixty-million jobs in our American economy. This discussion has failed to grasp the realities of the seniority principle.

Organized labor, after many years of struggle, has gained acceptance of the seniority principle as a standard for promotions, layoffs and rehiring, on a fair and equitable basis. It is also the yardstick on which vacations with pay, severance pay and other social benefits are based. The CIO stands for this principle as a safeguard against discrimination and favoritism.

## How Seniority Works

What is seniority and how does it operate? It is simply this: The unions have introduced a new doctrine into American industry (accepted for many years by British industry) namely, that once management has hired an employee who makes good, except under agreed upon circumstances, it must continue to give employment or preference for employment to that employee until such time, if ever, as he chooses to quit his job.

Thus under union-management relations, governed by collective bargaining contracts, workers acquire a qualified property interest in their jobs which they seek to make as inviolate as the most sacred interests of real estate property.

Property is purchased through labor. For example, John Doe buys an acre of land for one hundred dollars which he spent one year acquiring. Consequently, for one year's service, he acquired an acre of land. No other person can take this land from John Doe unless he voluntarily sells it or forfeits it by failure to pay taxes or other encumbrances.

## Ownership of Job

The same principle, varying only in detail, entitles the industrial worker to a qualified interest in his job. For instance, John Doe works for the ABC Steel company. He has been a crane operator for five years, longer than any other qualified worker. This entitles him to the ownership of the crane operator's job, unless he voluntarily gives it up or forfeits it by the infraction of a rule agreed upon by his union and management.

Another worker, with only four years of service, has a second claim to the same job but he will not own it outright until he has worked at

union contracts fairly, when equitably carried out. If seniority principles are not equitably and justly applied, the remedy is to make this work, not destroy the vehicle which is the prime guarantee against discrimination within industry which is government by labor-industry contracts.

As each seniority rule is agreed upon by union and management and each interpretation becomes a precedent for similar cases to follow, a body of common law in industry is being built up which guarantees to each worker a property interest in his job. Our courts have recognized this principle as such. Union membership assures job protection and only those individuals who claim seniority or property rights in a job as their sole asset—with children, wife, sickly mother-in-law, doctor bills, etc.—can fully appreciate how precious and valuable is this asset of seniority.

## Other Security Benefits

Seniority, of course, is only part of organized labor's program to provide workers with some measure of security. Today as a result of organized labor's efforts over the years, the industrial worker can say to his employer:

"If I am hurt while in your employ, you must pay me workmen's compensation!"

"If I am killed while in your employ, you must pay my wife and children workmen's compensation!"

"When you lay me off because I am too old to work any more, I shall receive old age benefits!"

## Job Protection

To these measures of security, collective bargaining adds seniority or job protection which enables the industrial worker to say to his employer:

"This is my job to have and to hold as long as I do it well and keep within the rules."

"You shall not fire me wantonly, without cause or on the spur of the moment."

"You shall not make me suffer from discrimination or favoritism."

"You shall not pass me by in promotions indiscriminately because of my race, color or creed."

We admit that seniority is only a step in organized labor's social security program, as workers have suffered from technological unemployment, seasonal and clerical idleness, lack of an adequate health insurance program and other causes of insecurity. These causes in the main are beyond the scope of union-management relations at the level of the individual productive unit or competitive company, and require the concerted action of management, government and organized labor on an industry-wide and national basis.

However, seniority is a foundation that has been firmly laid and accepted method of administering

union contracts fairly, when equitably carried out. If seniority principles are not equitably and justly applied, the remedy is to make this work, not destroy the vehicle which is the prime guarantee against discrimination within industry which is government by labor-industry contracts.

## Eliminates Favoritism

To summarize seniority, it is a set of rules designed to give workers prior claim to a job over others with fewer years of continued service, provided they fulfill the requirements. It is the only equitable method, proved practical of administration, to eliminate favoritism and discrimination among a group of workers.

The arbitrary decision of management is replaced with a set of rules. The human element—prejudice, inclination to favor one individual over another for intangible or other reasons—in governing the relations of a group of workers with one another and with management is reduced to a minimum.

The dangers inherent in any type of proposal to relax the seniority provision should be readily apparent. We have to make a start in balancing the scales of justice in favor of the Negro and woman worker. Seniority, justly administered, is the best guarantee that we have fashioned up to date. It would do much to destroy the progress that has been made toward interracial unity by the CIO since its inception.

The large group of whites who subscribe to the principles of the CIO and have exerted every effort, to remove unfair and discriminatory practices from American industry, and who would be unfairly displaced as a result of relaxation of the seniority principle, would become not only anti-Negro and anti-woman, but also anti-union. Relaxation of the seniority principles would also serve to transfer the burden of discriminatory hiring policies of management to the labor movement, where it does not belong.

## Debated at Convention

The question of relaxation of seniority principles was fully debated in the last convention of the United Transport Service Employees of America. This international passed a clearcut resolution to the effect that it considered seniority rights the cornerstone of organized labor and indicated its wholehearted opposition to any plan or scheme which would maintain any worker, group of workers or race of workers on the job by an abridgement of the fundamental principles of seniority. The United Federal Workers of America, meeting in convention in October 1944, likewise voted down a proposal to relax or change the seniority rules.

## CIO United Auto Workers

The CIO United Auto Workers

called a conference of women workers in Detroit, Mich., on December 9, 1944. At this conference, this question was considered and discussed and all proposals that would serve to relax or compromise the seniority provision in favor of women or any minority group was overwhelmingly turned down. The conference passed a resolution to the effect that the international executive board should review all UAW-CIO contracts from the standpoint of helping local unions to eliminate clauses proved discriminatory to women and improve future contracts so that all discriminatory contract clauses governing promotion, upgrading, transfer, lay-off and rehiring of women workers be eliminated. The conference further recommended that the National Executive Board adopt as official union policy, that no separate seniority lists should be established or maintained for men and women.

At the recent national CIO convention held in Chicago, Ill., this question was brought to the floor of the convention. It was held that, "The provisions of collective bargaining terms... is an autonomous sovereign right that exclusively belongs to each of the international unions." To date, each international CIO union that has considered this question in convention, has resolved the question in favor of strictly adhering to existing seniority practices.

(Next Week: Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, writes in this series.)



# CIO Fur Union Wages All-Out War On Color Line In Industry

Chicago Defender \$11. 1-13-45

By RAMONA LOWE

(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK.—Ben Gold, president of the CIO Fur and Leather Workers union, was greeted with tremendous applause when he told delegates at the fourteenth Biennial convention, "If the main task of a progressive trade union is to see that in its ranks that ugly, disgusting, diseased criminal method of discrimination against colored workers should be wiped out, our union takes pride in proclaiming that there is no chauvinism tolerated in our ranks. We are proud to have our Negro fellow workers."

The applause emphasized the membership's whole-hearted support of the inflexible no-discrimination policy practiced by the union, one of the most important of the CIO affiliates. It has some 100,000 members and has been a leader in the labor movement, gaining for its members tremendous gains against terrific odds.

Gold saw at the beginning that the interest of white workers was bound up with that of Negro workers. If Negroes were played against whites, the standard of the whole industry would be lowered. So little opportunity is given employers for such Machiavellian tactics. Some contracts state specifically, "There shall be no discrimination against Negroes or against any other employees by reason of their race, creed, nationality or religion or sex."

## Sees Union As Ally

Lyndon Henry, Negro union leader and business agent of the Fancy Fur Dyers Local 88, said, "The trade unions are the ones to help establish equality. Any trade union that doesn't, isn't carrying out its historical role. Negroes can't win equality by themselves. Every good general going into battle looks for allies. We must weaken the forces of our enemy by bringing over to our side the more progressive elements."

"Our union has just won a significant victory. We offered our members group insurance. The insurance company requested that the Negro members be listed separately, carrying out the pattern of life-insurance in America. Our membership protested. We promised them we would fight this thing through. We held conferences with the Prudential and John Hancock Life Insurance company on their executive boards. It is now agreed and they finally agreed to give group insurance to any employee on a basis of full racial prejudice. Men are elected on a closed ballot."



BEN GOLD

CIO Fur union president who roundly denounced racial discrimination at recent convention.

according to their fitness for the job regardless of their race or religion or national background.

"I ran for office during the time of the Italian campaign in Ethiopia," he said. "The majority of our membership was Italian and an Italian was running against me. I pointed out to them the vastness of the English empire and the wealth it produced and yet there was a dire poverty in England. We have more dentists in New York than all of England, I told them. I showed them that the Italian people would have to foot the bill for the empire Italy was building and that the Italian bankers would reap the benefit. Workers are all exploited by the same employer. I was elected two to one on a closed ballot."

## In Industry 20 Years

Henry first began working in the fur industry in 1924. In 1925, he was elected president of Local 88, although Negro membership constituted only six per cent of the local. Several New York locals have a high Negro representation and that the Italian bankers would reap the benefit. Workers are all exploited by the same employer. I was elected two to one on a closed ballot."



LYNDON HENRY

Business agent of Fancy Fur Dyers local who is a member of the union's executive board.

## Anti-Bias Group Advised

Henry is chairman of the International Anti-Discrimination committee of the union. "Each local is encouraged to follow the example of the international union and set up such a committee," Henry said. Harry Martel, educational director of the Fur Workers Joint board told of the local anti-discrimination committee's activities. "Negroes and whites act on all problems pertaining to discrimination against Jews, Negroes and foreign-born. They go to all the important interracial conferences."

"The committee takes action on all legislation that is connected with discrimination whether it is the FEPC or the Lynch-Dickstein bill calling for the outlawing of racial propaganda through the mails. It sends delegations, tele-

grams, petitions, letters and resolutions.

"Ours was the first union to take cognizance of Negro History week as an organized activity. We have had exhibits pertaining to Negro history, Negro life and Negro workers. We had a large affair at the Hotel Diplomat to commemorate the work of Dr. George Washington Carver."

"Because the struggle against discrimination is a major struggle," Martel said, "we have no meeting—whether it be shop or membership—where the question of discrimination is not taken up. It's part of the regular educational job of organizers and managers of the union."

## Vigilant Against Prejudice

"Every shop chairman and every shop committeeman is vigilant to detect any form of discrimination

Along with education, the practical advance of the Negro worker in the fur and leather industries. Under Gold's leadership special attention has been paid to the upgrading of Negro workers. Before the union was organized Negroes were relegated to the most menial jobs and averaged between 40 and 45 cents an hour. Now they receive a minimum of \$1.15 an hour, and in the highest skilled jobs to which they were denied access before organization, they receive a minimum of \$1.50 an hour.

Negro, Upgrading



hour.

George Kleinman, editor of the union's monthly paper, pointed out that fur workers are not faced with a seniority problem. Their contracts provide for an equal division of work. "It is not a war industry," he explained. "People don't come in and out. Membership is highly prized."

"We have a closed shop and a high wage scale—practically higher than that in any other industry. Negroes, who have only come into the fur industry in any numbers since the organization of the union, do not have to worry about being discharged as they have the same security as all other workers."

"A substantial group of our Negro membership is in the leather industry. That is a war industry, but unlike other industries it did not expand due to the limited supply of hides. Hides have decreased because of the reduction of imports. Leather ranks seventh in importance as war materials. That is the reason there has been no leather luggage and only certain types of leather handbags."

"The leather industry does work on a seniority basis. There is seniority of work below a certain number of hours. But lay-offs are not anticipated. It is more than likely employment will increase instead."

#### Seek Full Employment

"Our real job after the war will be to see that there is no unemployment in any industry. That will take the combined efforts of everybody to see that 60 million jobs are provided, that industry is kept going at a high level and a high purchasing power for the masses of people is maintained."

"The leather workers were organized in 1939. The industry was filled with company unions and labor spies. There was no overtime pay, no vacations and no sick insurance. We made our biggest gains in wage increases and other benefits in those localities where there is a large Negro membership."

"Many of the tanneries bordering the South didn't discriminate against Negro workers in hiring but did when it came to the question of skills. I'll never forget a Negro worker at the last convention getting up and telling how in 1941 he was making 32 cents an hour and in 1943 he was making between 75 and 80 cents an hour."

"We succeeded in raising wages 50, 75 and in some cases 100 per cent. Vacations and holidays with pay, free boots, aprons and gloves, overtime and health insurance are included in most of the contracts."

"Some shops in and around New York never employed Negroes before. We are succeeding in breaking down those barriers. For instance a Middletown, N. Y., firm now employs between 40 and 50 Negroes that never had any before."

"We count our membership as including the most advanced sections of the Negro people. They are concerned about issues facing the masses of people today. They

were active in the political campaign and have fought in their communities just as our Jewish, Italian and other minority members have done for a better life. These attitudes are reflected in the shops. There is tolerance and there are strong friendships. We have succeeded with no discrimination in our union. It could be done on a national scale!"

## CIO Seeks Negroes

Pittsburgh Courier  
1-6-45 Pa.

RICHMOND — In an interview here, J. K. Lombard, secretary-treasurer of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and treasurer of the PAC in Virginia, said: "In Virginia we are following the policy of 'no discrimination' as practiced by our national body. We fight discrimination against Negro workers in our union in Virginia, wherever we find it."

Mr. Lombard said that the CIO was still in its infancy in Virginia, having an estimated total of some 55,000 members. He spoke of the hard fight to convince some Negroes that they should belong to a union. He felt that with the policy of the PAC more clearly defined, it would probably begin a great program of education which would increase membership.

Also at this interview was Max Sussman, president of Local 45 of UCAPAWA and international representative of CIO. He spoke of a fight now being waged in Larus Brothers' Tobacco company here against a proposed Jim-crow local sponsored by AFL.

#### Name Leader to CIO Council

A Negro man, Eugene Richards, and a white woman, Yolanda Hall, were elected to represent the CIO United Auto Workers union on the executive board of the powerful CIO Illinois State Industrial Union council at its fourth annual convention recently closed in Chicago.

In taking this unprecedented action, Joe Matson, regional director of the UAW who threw his support to Richards, stated, "In line with our democratic and liberal policies and our convictions that the best man should get the job, we were glad to support Richards."

Richards is from UAW local 719 representing 10,000 Negro and white workers at the Electro Motive Corp., in La Grange, Ill.

## Reuther Tells Union In South Of UAW-CIO's Non-Discrimination Rules

DETROIT TRIBUNE  
3-3-45

The position of the UAW-CIO opposing discrimination against any of its members either by corporations or within local Un-

ions was outlined at UAW local 34, Atlanta, Georgia, recently in an address by Walter P. Reuther, vice president of the International Union.

Following the address of more than an hour, vice president Reuther engaged in a discussion lasting four hours or more with those in attendance at one of the largest meetings ever held by this local, which is one of the pioneer locals of the International Union.

Reuther declared that the most prolific and serious source of racial hatred and discrimination is that which springs from economic fear. He said it was the mission of the UAW, in cooperation with other sections of the labor and progressive movements of the nation, to provide full employment and thus remove any racial or other conflicts created by economic insecurity.

"As one of the pioneer Locals of our great International Union," Reuther said, "the members of Local 34 realize that we could not have been successful if it had not been for our spirit of unity, our solidarity. If we had tried to set up an exclusive union limiting its membership to certain crafts, we would have created a large reservoir of anti-union minded people, barred from membership and the benefits of the union, who would naturally have become willing union breakers."

"However, it was one of the cardinal principles of the UAW that our organization should be an inclusive one, that it take in all crafts of workers, skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled. We finally established our union."

"However, a union cannot really be fully inclusive if it or any section of it bars membership of any people because of race, creed or color. It would be injurious to do so. It would deprive certain groups who need protection of the benefits which our union can give them."



MR. REUTHER

"Not only would it be injurious, but it would be unwise and unsafe for any union to create outside its ranks a group whose bitterness against the organization would lead them to act as strike breakers in times of struggle or to accept substandard jobs which would inevitably cut down the standards of the organized workers."

"The UAW-CIO which is inclusive as far as all automotive crafts are concerned, must also be inclusive as far as all races, colors and creeds of men and women who work in the automobile industry."

Reuther went on to say that membership accorded Negroes or any other minority group in a UAW Local cannot be "second class" membership. "All members," he said, "must be accorded equal protection and equal rights under the constitution. 'These include,' he said, 'the rights to the full services of the committeeman and the redress of their plant grievance committee as well as the right to attend meetings in the Local Union and take part in its deliberations as paid up members in good standing.'"

## UAW-CIO FAIR PRACTICES COMMITTEE MOVES FOR SHOW DOWN IN INDIANA

DETROIT TRIBUNE  
3-3-45

The first case heard by the recently established UAW-CIO Fair Practice Committee has resulted in a sweeping order directing Delco-Remy Local 662, Anderson, Indiana, to desist from all practices of barring Negro members from their rights under the contract as well as their rights to use the facilities of the Local Union.

The report has been unanimously approved by the union's International Executive Board.

The officers and members of Local 662 have been directed to make available the union's club rooms and other facilities to all members regardless of race, creed, color, political affiliation, or nationality. Likewise, the local was instructed there are to be no color or racial lines raised in social affairs, entertainments, etc., sponsored by the Local Union.

In dealing with discrimination against Negro members of the Local in the plant, the UAW-CIO Fair Practice Committee decided that the Bargaining Committee of Local 662 be censured for its "wantonly disregard" of the no discrimination policy of the International Union. The Local Bargaining Committee and the Regional Director in Indiana were instructed to open negotiations with the General Motors Corporation to the end that all discriminatory practices be abandoned. If the corporation should fail to comply with this demand, it was decided, charges are to be filed with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices.



# UAW Probes Jimcrow by Union Officials

Daily Worker  
Special to the Daily Worker

TOLEDO.—Climaxing months of effort by local progressives from all walks of life, and supported by the rank and file of the United Auto Workers' the Fair Practices Committee of the UAW-CIO moved into Toledo last week to review charges that Richard Gosser, its regional director here, had encouraged the segregation and systematic discrimination of Negro workers. This is in flagrant disregard for the constitution of the UAW and the official policy of the Washington administration. Conducting the hearing for the Fair Practices Committee were UAW-CIO International Executive Board members Richard T. Leonard, Joseph Mattson, with George W. Crockett, Jr., Executive Director of the committee in charge. Gosser is a member of Vice-president Walter Reuther's caucus.

Evidence was taken showing that a number of large auto plants denied up-grading to Negro workers regardless of seniority or skill, and that at several plants Negroes were refused employment altogether. All of these plants, are under UAW-CIO contracts. 5-14-45

At the Chevrolet plant, two Negro workers who had participated in the great Chevrolet strike here, and who had accumulated 22 and 19 years seniority respectively, testified that management had deprived them of other than floor-sweeping jobs. Their repeated appeals to the shop committee and Richard Gosser had met only with callous rebuffs and the astounding suggestion that they surrender their seniority and re-hire as new employees. These men, L. H. Garner and Robert White, retained their seniority but are compelled to work in the capacity of floor-sweepers as a consequence. Both are competent and able-bodied workers. 5-14-45

## SAYS HANDS WERE 'TIED'

Johnny Groop, shop committee-man from the Champion Spark Plug company, confessed that there was nothing to be done, that his "hands were tied," that he was "helpless" to rectify outrageous denial of even elementary union representation at his plant. Negro workers there had no opportunity for advancement because under prevailing conditions no guarantee could be given management that there would be no work stoppages if Negroes were given production jobs. Mr. Groop, it is said, belongs to the

Gosser (Walter)-Reuther faction that completely dominates the union leadership at Champion.

The Willys - Overland Motors, proved to be one of the worst offenders, according to the testimony heard at the inquiry. This concern, employing 15,000 workers, and the home of the famous Willys "jeep," created non-production, jim-crow departments into which Negro workers were herded without regard to skill or past experience. Under the terms of the UAW contract in force there, it was pointed out, workers hired into a department must remain there for a period of six months before being permitted to bid into another department. Thus, in spite of a critical manpower and production problem, hundreds of Negro workers were effectively deprived of an opportunity easing the situation and were Jimcrowed throughout the plant. According to witnesses, this was accomplished with the formal approval of the shop executive committee and Richard Gosser, whose policies are rigidly enforced at Willys. 5-14-45

Faced with these and other specific accusations, Mr. Gosser and his aides defended themselves feebly. He is reported to have said that at the Overland "no Negro worker has been denied up-grading." But this assertion was promptly refuted by Clay White, Negro worker employed in a Jimcrow department 607. He claimed that he held two years seniority, had submitted a bid for a production job last February, but that although white workers were hired from the street for machine jobs during the interim, he remained in the aforementioned jim-crow department in a non-production category.

It was at the instigation of Emmett Wheaton, Jr., chairman of the Fact Finding Committee, an interracial body established to survey local conditions, that the Fair Practices Committee entered the situation. Mr. Wheaton is a member of UAW Local 12, and has been active in the struggle for Negro rights for a number of years. Of Mr. Wheaton, Mr. J. B. Simmons, Jr., president of the Mass Movement League and widely-known Negro leader here, said: "Mr. Wheaton has done a remarkable job in bringing to the attention of the UAW-CIO International Executive Board, the

conditions confronting the Negro people in the auto industry, and deserves unstinted praise for his work." 5-14-45

Appearing before the committee were representatives of the inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance (a Negro religious association), the Mass Movement League, and other groups. Reverend G. J. Johnson, president of the Ministerial Alliance, and Father Charles E. Taylor, rector of the All-Saints Episcopal church, informed the committee that discriminatory practices of Local 12 and of Richard Gosser, is creating racial tension in Toledo that unless stopped immediately threatens to result in catastrophic outbreaks.

John Begg, chairman of the Auto-Lite Unit, Local 12, a popular figure in progressive labor circles and a leader in the fight for retention of the no-strike pledge, was present for much of the hearing. He commented that "this is a good beginning, and I am hopeful that the result will not only bring about the end of this disgraceful discrimination of Negro workers within our union, and in our industry, but that it will bring an end to the reaction that has for so long a time stifled the internal life of our movement."



# Lewis Walks as Townsend Speaks

*Baltimore, MD*

Action of Mine Union

Boss Puzzles Delegation

MAKES NO COMMENT

Resolution on Hiring

Discrimination Offered

WASHINGTON

John L. Lewis, beetle-browed mine union chieftain, who does not have a past record of being antagonistic to colored Americans, stalked out of the Labor-Management conference Wednesday when Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees and a CIO alternate delegate, rose to speak.

Townsend had stood to express his fear that in the pursuit to evolve a plan to avert further industrial strife, the delegates might overlook the important role of colored workers in industry. He had no sooner began his statement than Lewis bounced out of his chair and walked out of the conference room.

The action was so obvious that expressions of amazement were noted on many of the delegates' faces. Lewis did not return until after Townsend had finished his statement.

**Lewis Has No Comment**

Efforts to query the mine workers' chief as to the reason for his discourtesy, proved useless. He was unavailable at the conference, could not be reached at his office, and his spokesman, K. C. Adams, was equally inaccessible or unavailable.

Townsend, a member of the committee on management's right to manage, asserted:

"In the industrial backwoods of American industry there are 13 million black voices seeking liberation. If we meant all the things we say about goodwill, then it is a reflection upon us that we have to pass such laws as to establish an FEPC to provide jobs for colored workers. It would be unnecessary if men of goodwill would assume the responsibility that is attendant to it."

**Receives Congratulations**

After his speech, in which he made it clear that he is for a permanent FEPC, Townsend received many congratulations from his CIO colleagues, but more particularly from delegates on management's side, including Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Highlight of the conference was the introduction by Philip Mur-

ray, CIO president, of a resolution to protect workers against race or religious discrimination through collective bargaining agreements.

The resolution placed before the executive committee, read as follows:

"To minimize work stoppages and for the purpose of furthering sound collective bargaining, I urge the incorporation of an anti-discrimination clause in all collective bargaining contracts which seek to protect the interest of all people, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry."

Townsend disclosed that as a member of one of the important committees of the conference, he hopes to impress upon management that their arguments that unions prevent them from hiring colored workers is unsound if they are going to insist upon their own right to manage their affairs.

**Anti-Bias Action Urged**

In letters sent Friday to Judge Walter P. Stacy, conference chairman, Secretary Henry A. Wallace, and Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach, the National Urban League expressed disappointment over omission of vital questions relating to employment of minority groups from the conference agenda.

The league called attention to the fact that the problems relating to these groups in industry and in labor must be faced realistically both by organized management and organized labor.

Moreover, officials of the Urban League said, the failure of Congress to act on proposed legislation to abolish racial discrimination in the employment, places squarely in the lap of this conference the responsibility for positive and constructive action designed to eliminate such discrimination.





## — UNION LOOKOUT —

*Daily Worker*  
**Negro Woman Elected**

**Head of Welfare Union**

12-24-45

By Dorothy Loeb

*new York, N.Y.*  
Eleanor Goding, newly elected president of Welfare Local 1 of the State, County and Municipal Workers, is distinguished in many ways. I select just two for comment. She is one of the first, if not the first, Negro woman to head a local union. She also has fluent command of Yiddish and uses it in her work in the city welfare department where she works as an investigator, assigned to an East Side caseload. Brooklyn-born and bred, she hails from the Bedford-Stuyvesant section and is a graduate of Hunter College. . . . The International Association of Machinists charge that Yale & Towne, Stamford, Conn., firm, which refuses to negotiate a raise for striking workers, prefers to spend its American-made dollars reconstructing its plants in Germany.

## Jim Crow Unions Hit By Verdicts in 2 States

2m.

1-5-45

**Milestones  
Passed in California and  
Virginia**

By JOHN T. MOUTOUX  
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The fight to wipe out discrimination against Negroes in some AFL unions has made important gains in Virginia and California.

At an NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) hearing at Richmond, Va., the attorney for the AFL union involved has put into the record a commitment that Negro employees of the Larus Bros. tobacco-processing concern, could become members of the "regular" union if they wished. Heretofore they had been relegated to an inferior union.

At San Francisco the California Supreme Court ruled that a shipbuilding concern having a closed contract with the AFL Boilermakers' Union could not dismiss Negro employees who refused to join the Boilermakers' inferior union for Negroes.

### Richmond Situation

This was the situation at Richmond:

At first the AFL union had two separate locals, one for its white members, and one for the Negro.

The CIO union filed charges with the NLRB charging the AFL local with unfair labor practices against

its Negro members.

The case, unique in the history of the NLRB, came to trial before Frank Bloom, NLRB trial examiner, this week.

After the hearing had been under way, Joseph Jacobs, attorney for the AFL union, made his surprise statement that Negro employees represented by the union were free to disband their auxiliary union and join the "regular" local.

Since other technical issues were involved, the hearing continued. But the Negro employees already had won their main point.

### California Case

Even more important, from the standpoint of ending Negro discrimination in some AFL affiliates, is the California decision.

Several thousand Negro employees are numbered among the West Coast shipyard workers represented by the Boilermakers Union. The union's practice was to put the Negroes in Jim Crow unions.

Joseph James, a Negro worker for the Marin Ship Corp., a large shipbuilding concern in Marin County across the bay from San Francisco, and a group of his fellow Negro workers filed suit in U. S. District Court in San Francisco to enjoin the union from discriminating against him and his colleagues and against the company from discharging them for refusing to pay dues for membership in the Jim Crow union.

District Judge Edward I. Butler

granted a temporary injunction, but a unanimous Supreme Court decision upheld the position of James and his co-workers.

The union has announced it would ask for a rehearing.

If the opinion stands, it will represent an important milestone in the fight to remove Negro discrimination in labor unions.

## 30 Unions

## Bar Negroes

*Pittsburgh Courier Pa*

NEW YORK—There exists an important minority of approximately thirty unions which reject the equalitarian creed and consistently practice discrimination against Negroes, writes Herbert R. Northrup in the July issue of the American Mercury. Subject of the article is "Race Discrimination in Unions."

"These discriminatory unions have been divided into three groups," he declares. "The first group comprises unions which have an explicit color bar in their by-laws. Typical is the constitution of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen which states that 'any white male' is eligible to membership. 7-7-45"

### TWO OTHER GROUPS

"In the second group are unions which draw the color bar by a sort of tacit understanding, despite the lack of any specific rule in the official union laws. In the third group are those unions which admit Negroes to a 'second-class' membership in jim crow 'auxiliaries,' under rules which deny them any voice in union affairs or an opportunity to be promoted to better jobs.

"Examining this list of discriminatory unions, one finds that they are either independent groups or AFL affiliates," the writer says. "None is affiliated with the CIO; nor does the CIO include any such organizations.

"As far as the independents are concerned, there is, of course, no central body to challenge their discriminatory policies. But the practices of the AFL affiliates are directly contradictory to the preaching of the AFL itself."

### RAISES GRAVE QUESTIONS

Mr. Northrup declares "The continued discrimination against Negroes by a significant minority of unions raises grave questions concerning the future of organized labor in America. Already on the defensive because of the excesses of a few labor leaders and the over-emphasizing of strikes by the Nation's press, unions in our country cannot afford to create ill-will among our thirteen million Negro population.

"Most leaders of labor realize this fact, and their realization partly accounts for their efforts toward preventing discrimination in their ranks. A number of AFL affiliates, including the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, the Commercial Telegraphers and the Master Mates and Pilots, which once had color bars in their by-laws, have deleted them and now admit Negroes.



## Labor Unions and the Negro

Miami Wh: p

"American trade unions have always been in the vanguard of those who advocate democracy and equal opportunity for all regardless of race, color, creed or national origin," states Herbert Northrup in the American Mercury. The renown writer goes on to say that for unions to practice real equality they must do more than just admit Negroes; they must provide equal treatment in lay-offs and promotions.

Through the efforts of the CIO Negroes have been made to feel kindly disposed towards organized labor in general. They have not actually realized that organized labor has been one of his worst enemies. This is true because of the deceit in their plan of operation.

Although labor has developed to its present sphere upon a program deceitfully designed to the practice of absolute democracy—representing the laboring classes en toto, it has not removed from its ranks the practice of discrimination against the Negro.

There have been some gains made by the Negro in labor circles, there are unions that have opened their doors for his membership, but as long as there are still crafts that refuse admittance to him, organized labor stands indicted for not practicing what it preaches.

When Negroes pour their moneys into the coffers of labor they are helping to foster the program of discrimination against themselves. 7-7-45

It may sound foolish to say Negroes should not support organized labor, especially the AFL, when so many of them have and are benefiting from its activity and negotiations. But until we can become such an impotent factor in the labor movement as to force unbridled consideration and recognition in all branches and units of labor organizations, we shall forever be excluded from certain locals and crafts.

Knowing that Negroes in the movement have secured much knowledge of labor, it seems that an all-Negro labor organization should be set up. In this we could use our labor strength to bargain for power. If all the Negroes in the labor movement would pull out from the AFL and the CIO and gather into our folds all the other Negro craftsmen and laborers who are excluded on a basis of discrimination, it is plain to see the logic of and expediency of such movement.

Some might say that is discrimination itself. Some may say that we would be fostering segregation in a wholesale form. Some might even predict that we couldn't get anywhere by so doing.

Take the Negro churches for instance. The African Methodist Church pulled out from the white dominated Methodist Episcopal Church because the Negro leaders in the church got tired of discriminatory practices against them. Today the African Methodist Church is one of the strongest religious organizations of the nation.

There is no such hope as foreseeing complete integration of the Negro into any particular sphere of the American life. Any gains that he will make has to be his own development. We don't like to admit that fact, but it is becoming more evident every day that that is an immortal fact.

It is true in political party affiliation, it is true in education initiative, and it is true in labor, just as it is in religious circles.

A nation-wide all-Negro labor movement is the only solution to our present organized labor disfranchisement.

## Toward Freedom

Daily Worker New York N.Y.  
THE George Washington Carver School and

The People's Voice have just concluded a five-week question-answer contest which revealed some highly significant things about the information and social attitudes of Negro workers. Of special interest were those relating to Negroes and organized labor. 9-10-45

The final question in the PV-Carver School contest was this: "Should Negro people join and support trade unions and organized labor? Why or Why Not?"

The overwhelming response to this question was affirmative. Most all of the participants in the contest expressed ideas similar to that of the prize-winning answer, which follows:

"Organized labor is an influential factor in American life. However, the freedom and security of workers—especially Negroes—are now seriously threatened. Apart, Negroes can gain little. Only by joining the great body of American labor can we win full participation in the economic and political life of our nation."

But there was one exceptional answer which, although representing a tiny minority of the contest participants, nevertheless expresses a mistaken point of view shared by far too many Negro workers. It follows:

"Negroes should not join and support trade unions and organized labor because in these organizations there is shown a marked preference to uphold only the whites in any matters concerning labor."

"They appear to make an effort to fight for the Negro's rights, but it is only half-hearted efforts to make them think they are for the Negro. In union meetings the Negro problems are not discussed at all, thereby proving that we are the last ones they think about. They speak fluently on racial equality, but they practice it purely amongst the whites, forgetting the colored man and woman who deserve the same breaks as the whites."

"THE Negro is human and deserves the right to make an honest living, and if he or she can qualify for any position which would advance him, and if he can pay union dues regularly, and attend quarterly meetings, then they should go all out for them as they do for the other members of the organization. They would prove then that there is no discrimination in organized labor or trade unions. 9-10-45

"As they stand now, they preach equality

## 'At Union Meeting Negro Problems Are Not Discussed

by Doxey A. Wilkerson

and democracy, but do not practice it, thereby giving the Negro as a whole the impression that although we must pay our dues regularly and attend the meetings we should not expect any more because we are not equal with the whites....

"Therefore I sincerely believe that until the unions and organizations prove that, regardless of race, creed or color man is equal and deserves the chance to make a name for himself in labor circles, Negroes should not support trade unions and organizations."

OF COURSE, the above statement is a distortion of the general picture. It ignores the increasingly vigorous struggles of many, many progressive trade unions to win Negro democratic rights on the job and in the community.

However, the statement appears to represent an honest expression of opinion; and the confusion it reflects is by no means uncommon among Negro workers. Moreover, there are, unfortunately, more than a few trade unions whose backwardness and inactivity on the Negro question do much to "justify" such mistaken and devious judgments.

There are lessons in this letter for all friends of the Negro and organized labor.

First, all of our trade unions must demonstrate convincingly, by deeds, their concern for the special problems of Negro workers.

Second, trade unions and all other groups and individuals interested in the progressive education of Negro workers should encourage the largest possible attendance at the Carver School (57 W. 125 St.)—which, incidentally opens its fall term on Sept. 17.





# 18 Lodges Sponsor Motion to Drop <sup>Track 4 order</sup> White Qualification

By GEORGE MORRIS N. Y., N. Y.

The requirement to be "white" is written into the union's ritual. Behind the move is a long fight which in recent months also involved large numbers of Negroes who hold temporary wartime cards. Petitions and resolutions for the change have been sponsored in a number of lodges.

There was still no outward indication of the lineup among the 1,000 delegates on this fight, nor have the union's officers indicated a stand in their report. But there seems no doubt that a showdown will come sometime within the nine days of proceedings. 10-31-45

Harvey Brown, president, opening support of officers, which recommends the convention, assailed General that "pending fair treatment from Motors president, C. E. Wilson, for the AFL Executive Council, pay-suggesting a turnback to 45 hoursment of AFL per capita tax be deferred." a week.

A greeting from President Truman. The IAM has already "deferred" man aroused some speculation on its per capita since last November. Truman's outlook for the Nov. 5. A large part of the officers' report labor-management conference. He is devoted to an analysis of the singled out for special praise. IAM's struggle against encroach- the Baltimore & Ohio labor-man-ments by a number of building agement collaboration, no-strike, trades crafts, streetcar men and es- speedup plan of 1922. The plan was specially by the Brotherhood of Car- swallowed by the machinists' union, penter's, in a number of fields that at a moment when its strength was have been within the jurisdiction of whittled down by an open-shop the machinists. drive in the railroad industry. Ever Green is expected to state the since then, the B. & O. plan has executive council's position and dis- been referred to as the principal cuss the charge that it is under example of labor's surrender of the thumb of William Hutcheson's twenties. building trades machine.

## ATTACKS 'AGGRESSORS'

Truman wrote to the convention "If our nation is to be successful in meeting the challenge of this era, it is essential that all groups contribute the maximum possible effort to the common good. The potential service that can be provided by a labor organization with over 500,000 members and more than 1,500 locals is great.

In his opening address, Brown likened the fight against "aggression within the labor movement" to the fight against aggression of war-makers. He called for a struggle to "put an end to those acts whereby some because they have power, may, or do, take unto themselves that which belongs to others."

Brown warned against the 1945

version of the "back to normalcy" and "American plan" slogans that followed World War I. He said that the policy of big business then led to unemployment and war and would do so again. In reply to Wilson's suggestion for a 45-hour week he said, to the loud applause, that "we are not going to move backward like a crab."

"Instead of an upward revision, we need a downward revision," Brown said, referring to the 36-hour demand of the railroad machinists. The delegates showed approval with prolonged applause.

The line of policy followed by the IAM, it appeared, is in a direction of sharper struggle with the building trades department of the AFL. This was particularly shown during the afternoon session when the featured speech was an address by Herman Wolf, president of Dymaxion Dwelling Machines, Inc. This enterprise at Wichita, Kans., promoted largely with the aid of the IAM, is turning out pre-fabricated homes built mainly of metals and plastics. The principal objective is to show how the many government-built airframe plants, now closed, could be utilized for the construction of this type of housing. The experimental ground is the Beecher Aircraft plant at Wichita.

With their union holding contracts for most of the largest air-frame assembly lines, the delegates showed interest as Mr. Wolf described a bright future for this new industry.

# IAM Delegates Spar on *The Daily Worker* Race Issue, Main Fight Due

By GEORGE MORRIS

Preliminary discussion during yesterday's session of the International Association of Machinists convention at Manhattan Center showed the union's top officers still adamant on the I. A. of M.'s Negro exclusion the 1,000 attending.

10-31-45 Delegate Harry Spitzer of Lodge 1060, Pittsburgh said: "Yes, we have a problem of solving unemployment, but you

score resolutions.

President Harvey Brown of the union also opposed agreement with CIO unions on jurisdictional matters.

The fight on the union's "lily white" clause, a major one before the convention, will center on the report of the ritual committee. It is in the initiation oath that a new member must show that he is "white."

Progressives scored once and lost twice yesterday on issues that are to some extent related to the race bar. Success came on an almost unanimously rejected resolution submitted from an Oregon local calling for the exclusion of refugees and a bar on immigration for ten years. The proposal was couched to express professed concern for returning servicemen and fear "of having riots and race and creed uprisings."

The convention committee recommended non-concurrence but the resolution's sponsors continued to press for it. Leading the fight against the resolution, Elma Morban of Lodge 1600, Burbank, Cal., declared that "it was a disgrace to this convention that such a resolution should even be introduced."

"This country was built by refugees," she said.

Brown, who presided, broke in to tell the convention that Miss Morgan's speech was an historic one for the union for it was the first time in the I. A. of M.'s long history that a woman appeared before its convention as a regular delegate. There are two other women delegates of

won't solve it by sending a few or even 50,000 refugees out. This is a problem of providing 60,000,000 jobs. It is a problem of getting into the fight for proper legislation."

Assailing those who picture refugees as people who received everything but give nothing, Spitzer observed that "they held the Nazi hordes while we were still getting ready. They gave their children. Where do we get off to turn them away?"

William G. Lukas of Lodge 1608, Alabama, said he was "surprised that a resolution of this sort should even come before the convention because it smacks of racialism and Hitlerism."

Less than a half dozen voice votes were heard in favor of the resolution. But immediately after came a resolution from the same local favored by the administration calling for speeding exclusion of Mexicans and Jamaicans imported during the war to relieve the labor shortage. Again Miss Morgan took the floor against it, but this time a majority of the delegates were more impressed by the argument that the contract under which those workers entered the country has expired.

The third resolution, introduced by New York's Local 402, called for a 10-point "Full Employment and Economic Program" embodying support of the full employment bill, higher jobless insurance, a 65-cent minimum, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, lower taxes for small-income people and several other measures most popularly known as

labor's "reconversion program." Point 6 called for a "permanent

The Brown-appointed resolutions committee recommended concurrence with the resolution "with the deletion of Point 6." Apparently fearing a new discussion on the floor, Brown called for a lightning vote on that recom-

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mentation without calling for a discussion. A few moments earlier the same on the resolution, but Brown first "discussion." 10-31-45. Ironically, the very convention in session, was called especially to consider withdrawal from the AFL because of the campaign of a number of AFL unions and the AFL council against the I. A. of M. William Green is expected to de-



# Machinists Retain 'White' Clause by Narrow Margin

By GEORGE MORRIS

*Daily Worker*

Delegates at the convention of the International Association of Machinists, on a rollcall yesterday, came within a vote margin of less than 2 percent of knocking out the "white" qualification for membership in the organization.

After a sharp debate Saturday and yesterday, the vote to eliminate the word "white" from the union's ritual was 1,958 to 2,173 for a committee's minority report which wanted it retained.

The entire debate and vote on the question was in closed session by an earlier decision.

The *Daily Worker* nevertheless learned that the debate was very sharp and that the union's top officers did not take part in the discussion.

In the course of the week-long convention lobby and caucus debates on the issue, it was apparent that lines were drawn on the issue, with southern and railroad locals generally for retention of the Negro bar and the large locals of mass production plants for kicking it out.

At least a score of AFL and railroad Brotherhood unions with Negro bars in their constitution were watching the IAM's convention with interest. Some of them like the IAM, have already been cited by the FEPC for unfair labor practices. While the leaders of those unions may take comfort in the failure of the IAM's progressive forces to come up to a majority, a 47.5 percent vote is something to think about.

The jurisdictional issues affecting the IAM's withholding of per capita payments to the AFL will come up today. The union's officers recommend that the IAM continue to withhold its dues payments, already nearly a year behind, until inroads by other crafts into its jurisdiction are stopped.

The convention yesterday voted to charter separate locals for foremen and supervisors in shops under IAM contract.

## IAM Faces Jimcrow, Raiding Issues

By GEORGE MORRIS

*The Worker*

Halfway through its 10-day convention in New York the International Association of Machinists delegates were still marking time on the two principal issues before them—removal of the "lily-white" clause in its ritual and steps to defend the union from attacks from sister AFL affiliates.

With some 900 delegates from almost every state present the convention was the first of the large labor gatherings since the war ended.

The union had a membership of 780,000 on VJ Day, of whom more than half have joined since the IAM's last convention, five years ago.

There is unquestioned unity for an all-out fight against the combination of forces within the AFL that is trying to undermine this largest AFL union. Technically the union is already suspended from the AFL, having withheld per capita dues for nine months. The officers report still under consideration recommends continued withholding of per capita until the executive council deals fairly with the union's jurisdiction.

The report, devoted largely to the union's struggle within the AFL, sharply attacks the AFL executive council for "yielding" to William Hutcheson's carpenters' union and the equally reactionary clique in the Operating Engineers. It describes in detail the inroads made by these and other unions into fields long held by the IAM.

William Green urged the IAM to pay up the per capita and stay within the AFL. President Harvey Brown with the convention's stormy applause replied to Green that the IAM was determined to get a fair deal first.

One preliminary action that indicated IAM administration policy on the race question, came on the adoption of a resolution that called for a 10-point program on re-

conversion legislation. It was adopted with the resolution committee's insistence that a point calling for a permanent FEPC be deleted.

**'TEMPORARY' CARDS**

Eighteen lodges announced sponsorship of an amendment to delete the word "white" from the union's ritual. Behind the move was an extensive campaign involving in some areas large numbers of Negroes who had "temporary" cards.

There seems little likelihood of convention action in favor of unity or joint action with CIO. When one resolution came up calling for some form of joint action with other CIO unions in the metal trades, Brown ruled out a speaker favoring it on the ground that he "would not permit anyone to speak in favor of working hand in hand with those who are out to destroy us."

The delegates have shown considerable independence on some less important issues, with administration proposals even reversed in some instances, but most of them are inexperienced and insufficiently united on progressive issues.

The convention is expected to end by Nov. 9.





**LABOR MEET ATTRACTS NIGERIANS**—M. A. Jukunboh (left) and T. M. Bankole are Nigerian delegates attending the international labor conference in London's handsome County Council Chambers. More than 240 trade-union delegates from 45 Allied and neutral countries are representing 50,000,000 organized workers for the first time in six years.



# Negro Membership In IWO Reaches 5,000; New York Age 4-14-45 Basis For Mass Enrollment Established

Milgrom observed that "reaction has really no organized base within the Negro communities . . . the Negro people in our country, as a single group, are the staunchest supporters of the basic aspirations of Teheran and Yalta, for a new, democratic world."

The Negro membership in the International Workers Order has reached a total of 5,000, it was stated by Sam Patterson, IWO National Negro Organizer, in a report to the semi-annual General Council sessions which was released Monday. The annual financial report of the General Council of the Order, revealed that the total membership of the IWO, as of December 31, 1944, combining adult, juvenile and social members, has attained the all-time high of 173,516.

The main report on the progress of the IWO Negro recruiting campaign was made to the General Council in New York City last week by Sam Milgrom, General Director of Organization. It was supplemented with reports by Mrs. Louise Thompson-Patterson of Chicago, an IWO general vice-president; and by Samuel Patterson. 4-14-45

Mr. Milgrom, in his report, announced that since January, 1945, a total of 1,583 Negroes had joined the Order: 771 in Chicago, 542 in New York, 132 in Detroit and the balance in Philadelphia, San Francisco, New Jersey and other localities.

Defining the function of his report as aiming to make the experiences and responsibilities of the campaign the property of the whole Order, Mr. Milgrom reviewed the IWO's basic approach to the drive at the time of its initiation: first, the building of the IWO in the Negro communities was regarded as a key political task; second, the Order's anti-fascist program for quick victory and stable peace required the closest alliance and organic unity with the Negro people; third, the IWO as a community and nationality group organization, can and must play a leading role in the fullest integration of the Negro people into American life and in realizing the aspirations of the nationality groups for democracy in the United States and abroad. The IWO can help in this by doing its part to mobilize these nationality communities, he said, "for full equality of the Negro people as a basic task for democracy for all."

Stressing the progressive character of the Negro communities, especially the tremendous change since the beginning of the war, Mr.



# 45k-1945 Victory Won By Memphis World Teamsters Union

An order that he be returned to his old job with seniority rights (recognition of his 31 years of continuous service) that he not be molested in his work, and that he be paid approximately \$1000 in back salary covering the time he was off following dismissal from his post, was made by the National Labor Relations Board of Washington, D. C., this week in behalf of a local Negro workman.

The recipient of this consideration is Frank Minion, who for more than a quarter of a century, was one of the city's best-known ice-men. He was employed by the Bluff City Ice Company, an affiliate of the Southern United Ice Company of Memphis.

More than a year ago Minion began to take an active part in trying to organize the Negro ice-men, truckdrivers, and dock workers of Memphis into membership in the International Teamsters Union.

His efforts began to attract attention not only among the workers, but among the officials and managers of the ice companies. As a matter of fact, Minion's efforts, coupled with the advice and guidance and aid of organizers of the Teamsters resulted in a strike of large numbers of Negro ice-men in '43. While the strike was on foremen for the company made personal visits to the homes of some of the strikers urging them to return to work and not to pay attention to the efforts of Minion and the union organizers.

Following the strike in February 1944, Minion was discharged. The company alleged that he was not doing enough work to keep up the key route (Number 11) which he had worked for the company, that he was working on a side-line job as a helper in a saloon, and that he violated other rules of the company.

Minion immediately reported his situation to his union local 667 of which John L. Biggers is president. Mr. Biggers immediately filed a complaint against the company with the National Labor Relations Board. In November of 1944, ten months later, the Board sent a hearing officer from Washington to investigate the case and hear both sides—the union's and the company's.

On December 29th the Board gave its decision, which was in favor of Minion and the union.

According to Mr. Dexter L. Lewis, international representative for the Teamsters Union in charge of the states of Tennessee and Arkansas,

the National Labor Relations Board recommended that the company should stop discouraging the membership of its workers in the Teamsters Union and should stop interfering in any way with the organizing activities of the organization among the ice handlers, drivers, and others coming from the union's jurisdiction.

Second, the Board recommended that Minion should be given his job back with seniority recognition, and "make whole" pay for any loss he may have suffered by reason of the company's discrimination against him. The payment to him was recommended to be equal to that he would have received had been working all along up till the time the company would accept the Board's recommendations with Minion's re-instatement.

In commenting on the NLRB's decision in the Minion case, Mr. Lewis took occasion to say, "The International Teamsters Union, the second largest in the American Federation of Labor has from its first organization believed in and practiced the principle of equality. We have always taken in Negro workers on the basis of our policy of no discrimination against workers in our field regardless of race, creed, color, or religion. We believe in and give absolute equality of rights in the union to all of our members."

The International representative said further, "There are over 600 members of Local 667. About one-half of them are Negroes. That means there are some 390 Negro members of the Memphis local, enjoying complete equality of union rights and opportunities with the other members. There ought to be approximately 3000 members of this Memphis local. And if that were so it would be found that at least 2000 of these members would be Negroes.

When interviewed at his wood-yard on Pontotoc Street, Minion, the winner of the significant hearing in its first round, so far, remarked, "I have nothing to say, except I wanted the thing to end just like this."

## NLRB to Rule On Certifying Jimcrow Union

By ALICE BURKE  
RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 9.—Is it lawful for a union which discriminates against Negro members to

## Nat'l Labor Relations Board

have its certification rescinded as a bargaining agent? This question is being considered at a hearing before Frank Bloom, chief trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board here.

The AFL won the election last April and was certified. But the CIO charges that the AFL has denied representation to some 200 Negro employees.

George Benjamin, Negro, International representative of the AFL's Tobacco Union, admitted on the witness stand that there was a Negro Local 219 B, and a white Local 219 at the plant.

Larus Bros. officials testified that the company turns over the check-off dues of all employees, Negro and white to Local 219, the white local.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a brief in the case making substantially the same charges made by the CIO. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People told the NLRB it will file a brief in the case after it has studied the testimony.

## NLRB Upholds Jim Crow Locals

WASHINGTON, D. C. (ANP)—The National Labor Relations Board last week decided two cases upholding the principle of jim-crow locals of trade unions.

In one case involving the Atlanta Oak Flooring Co. and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL, the board said it was unable to find that segregation into separate locals is in direct violation of national policy and the Fifth Amendment.

Using this and other cases as precedents, the board decided similarly in the case of Larus and Brother of Richmond and the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL.

In arriving at these decisions, the board declared that they have no authority to remedy discriminatory practices within the structure of union organizations.

The CIO had appealed to the board to outlaw jim-crow locals as a matter of principle, but the board excused itself as being only a "creature of Congress" and could not presume to hold the powers of the legislature.

"By its decision in the Larus case, the NLRB is following a dangerous policy of approving jim crow locals which lead to discriminatory practices against Negro workers," Donald Henderson, president of the

CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union, has written the NLRB.

Protesting the NLRB's ruling Henderson charged the Board with "taking the easy way out and weakly evading the issue of discrimination in the AFL."

"By telling the AFL that it may file a new petition in the name of Local 219 (the white local) and 219-B (the Negro local), the NLRB is surrendering to the principles of the enemies of democratic trade unionism," Henderson wrote.



# Maritime Union Head Sees Negro Jobs As Challenge To Organized Labor When Peace Comes...What?

By JOSEPH CURRAN

What about jobs and security for Negro workers in the postwar period?

This critical question poses a major challenge to the ingenuity of organized labor in America as well as to government and industry. The problem is an immediate one. Its solution must come before the end of the war.

At the outset it must be recognized that the economic future of the Negro people is an integral and inseparable part of the future of all workers, regardless of race, color or creed.

We cannot have a program of full production and full employment, which excludes our colored brothers and sisters. On our ships and in the industrial plants of the nation, they have done a job not surpassed by any other group of workers.

Their contribution to America's production mira-

**JOSEPH CURRAN** is one of the outstanding labor leaders of the nation. In little more than ten years he has risen from a seaman to the top ranks of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. He is a CIO vice-president and president of the important National Maritime Union.

His leadership is limited only by the numbers employed. The quality of their performance on the production front, like that of their brothers and sisters on the battlefield, needs no champion.

Reconversion and the postwar period must not leave the Negro in the lurch. For if the Negro people lose the

gains they have won during the war, the welfare of the nation will suffer a serious setback.

At its recent convention in Chicago, the CIO reaffirmed its militant and forthright views on this question. Behind the statesmanlike leadership of President Philip Murray, the delegates, speaking for the 6,000,000 members in CIO, unanimously resolved that the advances achieved by Negro workers and other minority groups "must not be lost in the postwar period."

That resolution, backed up by the clearheaded, determined leadership and rank and file of the CIO unions throughout the country, will prove to be a powerful weapon in the fight for job equality of our Negro brothers.

## Urge Understanding

The resolution significantly urged all CIO unions to guard "against any form of racial discrimination, against all conditions that make fertile ground for such discrimination, and to prevent anti-union employers from taking any steps which are designed to return to previous conditions of discrimination and thereby reduce the gains that all workers have won."

It recommended also that all CIO unions seek to incorporate into their collective bargaining agreements a provision against job discrimination because of race, creed, color or place of origin.

The essence of the CIO position on this subject is contained in the final clause of this resolution, which states:

"Out of this war must emerge a complete understanding and determination on the part of the American people that full political and economic equality must be accorded to all Americans. Jim Crowism, the abominable poll tax, and any other form of discrimination and bigotry must be excised from our national life. The struggle against these vicious practices would be the strongest weapon in forging real and effective national unity among all decent-minded Americans."

## Cites NMU Fight

The phrase "full political and economic equality" sums up the fight of progressive Americans, and in the first place the CIO, to wipe the slate clean of ANY second class Americans.

I am proud to say that the National Maritime Union was founded in May, 1937, on the principle that all men ARE created equal. This principle has been vigorously car-

ried into effect on the thousands of ships under NMU contract. On July 15, 1944, the long struggle of the Union to eliminate Jim Crow from our ships culminated in our policy being written right into our agreement with the ship owners organized in the American Merchant Marine Institute.

That agreement, which won the approval of the National War Labor Board, now contains this significant clause:

"Article 1, Section 6. Employment (h) There shall be no discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin."

This is the first appearance of such a contractual provision in the history of the maritime industry in our country. Its full importance can be judged by recognizing that the American Merchant Marine Institute is the dominant ship-owner group in the United States. As a result of this clause we can proudly say that a new standard has been set for the entire American Merchant Marine. We intend to maintain that standard in the postwar period with the continued cooperation of management and government agencies.

## Can Be Duplicated

Is the elimination of job discrimination on NMU ships a unique achievement? Or is it the inevitable result of a proper trade union approach to the problem?

We feel that what we have accomplished on the ships under the most trying conditions can be duplicated more readily under the much more favorable conditions existing in shoreside industries.

The membership of the NMU has gone beyond the problem of job equality. They work together, they are quartered in the same fo'c'sle, they share the same recreational facilities, they use the same mess-rooms. In short, we have achieved complete inter-racial amity on our ships. This, in an industry where approximately 50 per cent of our members come from the South.

The extreme hazards of keeping the ships sailing in wartime, the countless crises that have confronted our members, the convoy fatigue and tensions, could easily have ignited racial conflict in our industry, were our policy incorrect and unworkable.

## Do Efficient Job

The fact is that our clear-cut policy of no discrimination is the major factor which has made it possible for us to maintain our bridge of ships against the enemy.

With the aid of President Roosevelt's Executive Orders 8802 and 9346, we have been able to achieve the highest degree of cooperation with government and management. As a result, our merchant marine has been doing an efficient job de-

livering the goods in time and in sufficient quantity to every battle-front.

It is a matter of record that our unwavering application of this basic policy led to the appointment of the first Negro captain of a Liberty ship in this war, Captain Hugh Mulzac, who still carries an NMU membership book. Since we won the fight for a ship for Captain Mulzac on September 23, 1942, three more Negroes have received their appointments as masters of ocean-going vessels. They are Captains Adrian T. Richardson, John Godfrey and Clifton Lastic.

There is no denying that a permanent FEPC would afford job protection in every industry to every member of a minority group from the highest rating to the lowest. The campaign for Congressional approval of this measure is an integral part of the overall fight for jobs and security for all Americans.

## Need For Full Employment

Active support of such legislation is a just criterion of the sincerity of individuals and organizations to help resolve the problems of minorities in America. The CIO is in the forefront of the fight for enactment of this urgent measure and with broad enforcement powers.

There is some talk in certain quarters that union seniority rules should be relaxed in order to forestall wholesale firings of Negro workers.

We have no seniority provisions in the NMU since we function on the principle of rotary hiring. The first man registered for a job in his specific rating is the first dispatched to a ship requesting that rating.

It seems to me, however, that instead of arguing about whether or not departmental or plant-wide seniority regulations ought to be changed, the time and the effort should instead be devoted to the really basic issue. And that is to press intensively for those programs and policies that spell full employment for all Americans.

President Roosevelt has pledged to provide sixty million jobs. He needs our help to keep that pledge. The most important assistance we can give him is in the field of political action. Political action means not only electing progressive Congressmen. It means following through on legislative proposals that benefit the people, such as a permanent FEPC, anti-poll tax legislation, the Murray-Kilgore Reconversion Bill, the Wagner-Murray-Dingwell Bill, and many more.

On January 11, 1943, President Roosevelt announced his famous Economic Bill of Rights. The people must demand legislation that would translate those proposals into the law of the land. In this manner does political action assure bread and butter for all the people. It's the only sure guarantee of winning the fullest measure of post-war security and prosperity for all Americans of all creeds and colors.

Voice of the Daily Worker  
New South

Philadelphia, Mississippi

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have just finished reading your articles on the National Maritime Union and believe me I'm convinced that it is the Union for me: if I ship out, as I expect to do soon. Keep your good work up. Some of us Southerners are not as reactionary as Bilbo, Rankin, Inc.

A MISSISSIPPI READER.

**Tampa NMU Opens Political Drive**

TAMPA, Fla.—(ANP)— Tampa's National Maritime union sprang

into political action last week by blasting at the wave of lynchings in the south, the run of anti-labor bills in congress, and the retention of American troops in China as part of "big business," plan, aided and abetted by the Truman administration for "world domination."

Speaking before a mixed audience of 100 blacks and white seamen and other union members gathered in celebration of the opening of NMU's PAC headquarters Edward Gordon port agent, condemned the absence of federal action in the case of St. Claire Pressley, war veteran, lynched in Jacksonville, S. C., on November 17.

## DEMAND INVESTIGATION

"The penalty for murder in the state of South Carolina is execution not suspension from the police force. We demand a prompt investigation under federal direction and full legal punishment for the guilty parties, without ifs and buts."

"Here in Tampa," Gordon continued "the SS Spideleine, Gulf Oil tanker, phoned today for one able seaman, one quartermaster and a second cook, and specified 'no colored.' Well, that's a violation of the contract and I told them that. I further told them that they'd have to accept what the rotation system called for, and what we'd fight any attempt at racial discrimination."



# 'Stage for Action' Puts on a Show At the National Maritime Union

*The Worker* 6-3-45

By BILL MARDO

Out from the wings walks a handsome, middle-aged woman who quite simply tells the general membership meeting of the National Maritime Union at Manhattan Center:

"The play you are about to see, **And No Wheels Roll**, is one of many presented by Stage for Action. It concerns you."

And then, employing the vivid, Living Newspaper technique, a group of 10 men and women, Negro and white, unfolded a powerful play exposing the strike provocateurs who tried to foment race war during the Philadelphia transit stoppage last year.

And before you know it, the entire hall of seamen are hunched forward in their seats, applauding the strong union talk of one actor, loudly booing another who portrayed a company fink—in short, Stage for Action is again accomplishing its task: "We're not here merely to entertain you. We want to arouse you to action!"

The telephone book just lists it as: Stage for Action, 130 W. 42 St., BRyant 9-1425. There, on the 11th floor, in three, barely-furnished rooms, can be found the heart of this unique enterprise—this volunteer organization of professional writers, actors, and directors who, at almost a moment's notice, travel to Camden, Hartford, Brighton Beach and the Bronx—to educate via the stage.

## A YOUNG GROUP

Miss Mildred Lindsley, executive-director of Stage for Action, told us a bit about the organization's young history. Stage for Action was born little more than a year ago, when a group of professionals from Broadway and radio realized the need to get timely topics before the public in a dramatic, digestible form. Such prominent writers as Edward Chodorov, Arthur Miller, Norman Corwin and Ben Hecht gave scripts to Stage for Action.

The actors first presented **That They May Win**, a rousing dramatization on child-care and prices. The Mayor's committee on Child Care in Wartime was greatly impressed. Other audiences composed of housewives and consumer organizations saw the show and gave it wide praise. Scripts began to pour in. The initial interest in Stage for Action was created.

A special show of three one-act plays was presented soon after before 500 invited guests, representing many interested organizations and potential sponsors. Among them was Mrs. Eleanor

Roosevelt, who declared in her newspaper column the next day: "It is a great credit to these young people in the theater who want to do this job as citizens through work in their own profession, and I wish them the best of luck."

Well, enough money was raised at that special showing to finance Stage for Action. Within the past year branch offices have been established in Hollywood, San Francisco, Detroit, Chicago and Boston. They've performed before some 300,000 people—and it's safe to say their biggest audiences are supplied by the trade unions.



A group of seamen enjoy the show presented by Stage for Action at the National Maritime Union's general membership meeting at Manhattan Center.

## A HIT EVERYWHERE

Stage for Action is a smash hit everywhere; whether performing in port version before the Marine and Shipbuilding Workers in Camden—or the powerful anti-discrimination play **Skin Deep**, at a meeting of Mine, Mill and Smelter shop stewards in Manhattan.

Keen interest has greeted Stage for Action's new plan, whereby they service a union's various locals throughout the year, for a modest, sustaining fee. Already signed up for the yearly program are the Furniture Workers, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, the UOPWA, and the State, County and Municipal Workers of America.

And other unions will probably be in the fold before long, for, as President Mike Quill of the Transport Workers recently said: "Stage for Action can say more in 15 minutes than we could in 15 hours of speaking."





**Workers' Alliance**  
*North West*  
**Petitions Public Aid**  
*Enterprise*  
*Seattle, Wash.*

By Pyramid Workers' Alliance

The organization of Negro workers and sympathizers has a strong appeal to all union workers. This is demonstrated by the popularity of the petition being circulated by members of the Pyramid Workers' Alliance. Already, in less than two weeks time, 2,000 signatures have been obtained and turned in. These signatures represent not only the Negro workers at Boeing Aircraft Corporation, but almost equal numbers of the white workers who realize that without unity of all persons employed, organized labor will suffer and suffer severely.

At the special meeting of the Alliance held on Sunday, July 15, at the Y. W. C. A. on No. 21st, Executive Board members reported the highly successful reception of the petition by the public. This petition is addressed to Lodge No. 751 of the Machinists, and to the International Association which ordered all locals to quit taking permit dues. Only members of minority groupings are refused membership in the locals of 751 and are required to hold a permit card.

The incident provoking the discussion and the action was a report substantiated by some evidence that a Mr. Geo. Streater, employed by the War Production Board, had set dates for meetings with the company and with the union, in behalf of the Pyramid Workers' Alliance without consulting the P. W. A. or requesting its consent to hold such meetings. The Negro people, like the members of both the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. unions, have learned to trust their welfare only to those leaders from among their ranks who have proved themselves unselfish and fearless when confronted by the many forces of the opposition.

7-18-45